

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1902

Annual Report on the Social and Economic  
Progress of the People of

NYASALAND, 1938

*(For Report for 1936 see No. 1824 (Price 2s. 6d.)  
and for Report for 1937 see No. 1885 (Price 1s. 3d.).)*

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# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF NYASALAND FOR THE YEAR 1938

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## I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

### Geography.

The Nyasaland Protectorate consists of a strip of land some 520 miles in length and varying from 50 to 100 miles in width, bounded on the east by Lake Nyasa, on the south by Portuguese East Africa, on the west by North-Eastern Rhodesia and on the north by the Tanganyika Territory. It lies approximately between  $9^{\circ} 45'$  and  $17^{\circ} 16'$  south latitude and  $33^{\circ}$  and  $36^{\circ}$  east longitude and is roughly 37,000 square miles in area, or nearly three-quarters the area of England. Its most southerly portion is approximately 130 miles from the sea.



The Protectorate consists of two distinct natural divisions: first, the western shore of Lake Nyasa, with the high tablelands separating the lake from the basin of the Luangwa river in Northern Rhodesia; and secondly, the region which includes the Shire Highlands, Mlanje mountain, and a small portion of the south-eastern coast of Lake Nyasa, and which is bounded on the west by the watershed between the Zambezi and Shire rivers, and on the east by Lakes Chiuta and Chilwa and by the Ruo river, a tributary of the Shire.

Lake Nyasa, the third largest lake in Africa, is a deep trough 360 miles in length and from 10 to 55 miles wide, lying at a height of 1,555 ft. above sea-level. Its greatest depth is 386 fathoms. It is subject to sudden and violent storms which occur principally during the period from April to October.

The only river of any importance is the Shire, which flows out of the south end of the lake and runs for 250 miles in a general southerly direction to its confluence with the Zambezi. During the rains, steamers are able to navigate on the lower part of the Shire, between the Zambezi and Chikwawa.

The chief towns in the Protectorate are Zomba, the seat of the Government; Blantyre, the commercial capital, which has about 250 European inhabitants; and Limbe.

### **Climate.**

The climate of Nyasaland is not markedly dissimilar from that of the East African dependencies. A strong contrast exists between the comparatively equable and healthy climate of the highlands, where at an altitude of 3,000 feet or more extreme heat is unknown, and conditions in the Shire valley, where temperatures rising to 115° Fahrenheit are recorded in October and November. The climate of the Lake littoral is again distinct; for the proximity of the Lake and the comparatively heavy rainfall combine to promote a degree of humidity which, though the temperature seldom rises above 95° Fahrenheit, is particularly trying to Europeans.

The monsoon begins to blow strongly in September, and the first rains may be expected at any time after the middle of October: and from their beginning until the end of December it is usual to experience violent thunder and rain storms, interspersed with varying periods of considerable heat. After December the thunderstorms diminish in frequency and intensity and are replaced by steady rain, January, February and March being the wettest months of the year. From May to September the weather is cooler, the climate of the highlands especially being quite cold at night; while throughout the country the air is comparatively dry.

### History.

Little is known of the history, prior to 1850 or so, of the region now called Nyasaland. It is said that the first European to visit Nyasaland was one Jasper Bocarro, a Portuguese who travelled early in the 17th century from the Zambezi to the confluence of the Ruo and Shire rivers, and thence *via* the Shire Highlands and the Lujenda river to the coast at Mikindani.

The modern history of Nyasaland begins with the advent of Dr. Livingstone, who, after experiencing considerable difficulty in ascending the River Shire, discovered Lakes Chilwa and Pamalombe, and on the 16th of September, 1859, reached the southern shore of Lake Nyasa. Livingstone was closely followed by a Mission under Bishop Mackenzie, sent out by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The Mission settled in the Shier Highlands; but on account of the loss of many of its members by sickness and other causes. it withdrew in 1862. It was re-established in 1881 on Lake Nyasa, with headquarters on the island of Likoma, where it still remains.

In 1875 the Livingstonia Mission, named in honour of the great explorer and founded by the Free Church of Scotland in the previous year, sent out its first party to Nyasaland. They were joined in 1876 by the pioneers of the Church of Scotland Mission, who chose the site of the present town of Blantyre and established themselves in the Shire Highlands, while the Free Church applied itself to the evangelization of the inhabitants of the shores of Lake Nyasa.

The Missions were followed by the African Lakes Corporation; and in 1883 Captain Foote, R.N., was appointed first British Consul, resident at Blantyre, for the territories north of the Zambezi.

It was not long before trouble arose with the Arab slave traders who had settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa. At the time of Livingstone's first visit he had found the Arabs established in a few places on what is now the Portuguese shore of the Lake, and at Kota Kota on the western side. Arab caravans, trading with the tribes in and beyond the valley of the Luangwa, were in the habit of crossing the Lake on their way to and from the sea coast. The opposition of the newcomers to the slave trade carried on by coastal Arabs and natives alike resulted in a conflict both with the Arab traders who had settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa under Mlozi and also with the Yao Chiefs under their influence.

In the summer of 1889, Mr. Johnston (afterwards Sir H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.), arrived at Mozambique as His Britannic Majesty's Consul and proceeded to travel in the interior to enquire into the trouble with the Arabs.



After treaties had been concluded with the remaining Makololo Chiefs and with the Yaos around Blantyre, Mr. Johnston proceeded up Lake Nyasa, leaving in charge Mr. John Buchanan, Acting Consul. This officer, after receiving news of a conflict between a well-armed Portuguese expedition commanded by Major Serpa Pinto and Mlauri, a powerful Makololo Chief on the Lower Shire, proclaimed a British Protectorate over the Shire province on the 21st of September, 1889.

In 1891, an Anglo-Portuguese Convention ratified the work of Mr. Johnston, Mr. Sharpe (later Sir Alfred Sharpe, K.C.M.G., C.B.), and other pioneers of British Central Africa; and in the following spring a British Protectorate was proclaimed over the countries adjoining Lake Nyasa. The Protectorate of Nyasaland, under the administration of a Commissioner, was confined to the regions adjoining the Shire and Lake Nyasa, the remainder of the territory under British influence north of the Zambesi being placed, subject to certain conditions, under the British South Africa Company.

On the 22nd of February, 1893, the name of the Protectorate was changed to "The British Central Africa Protectorate"; but the old name "Nyasaland Protectorate" was revived in October, 1907, by the Order in Council which amended the Constitution.

## II.—GOVERNMENT.

### The Central Government.

The Protectorate is administered by the Governor, assisted by an Executive Council composed of the Chief Secretary, the Treasurer and the Attorney-General *ex-officio* and, at present, the Senior Provincial Commissioner. The laws of the Protectorate are made by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council constituted by the Nyasaland Order in Council, 1907. The Legislative Council consists of the Governor, five official members including the three *ex-officio* members of the Executive Council, and five unofficial members. The unofficial members, who are nominated by the Governor without regard to any specific representation, are selected as being those most likely to be of assistance to him in the discharge of his responsibilities, and hold office for a period of three years. In addition to indirect representation by at least one of the unofficial members, who for many years has been selected from one of the Missionary Societies, native interests are the direct concern of the Senior Provincial Commissioner, the Chief Secretary and the Governor himself.

### Departments of Government.

The principal departments of Government whose headquarters are in Zomba are those dealing with Finance, Legal Affairs, Medical and Sanitary Services, Agriculture, Public Works,

Education, Police, Prisons and Lunatic Asylum, Geological Survey, Veterinary Services, Forests, Mechanical Transport and Posts and Telegraphs. The High Court and the Lands Office, which latter includes the offices of Surveys and Mines, are in Blantyre; and the headquarters of the Customs Department is at Limbe.

### Provincial Administration.

For administrative purposes the Protectorate is divided into two provinces, each in charge of a Provincial Commissioner who is responsible to the Governor for the administration of his province. The provinces are divided into districts in charge of District Commissioners, who are responsible to the Provincial Commissioner. The provinces of the Protectorate are as follows:—

<i>Province.</i>	<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Land area. Square miles.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Head- quarters.</i>
Southern	Lower Shire, Chikwawa, Central Shire, Cholo, Mlanje, Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Zomba, Upper Shire, South Nyasa.	12,114	791,111	Blantyre
Northern	Ncheu, Dedza, Fort Manning, Lilongwe, Dowa, Kota Kota, Kasungu, Mzimba, West Nyasa, North Nyasa.	25,260	831,815	Lilongwe

In 1933 a system of indirect rule or, to give it the proper title, native local self-government, was introduced. The hereditary chiefs, with their customary councillors and advisers, have been recognized as Native Authorities and, while they are of course concerned primarily with purely native affairs and are subject to close supervision by the Administrative staff, are given an increasing share of the general administrative and judicial work of their areas.

The Report\* of the Commission appointed to enquire into the financial position and further development of Nyasaland was published in October, 1938, and its recommendations have been receiving the consideration of the Government.

The Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the desirability and feasibility of closer co-operation or association between Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, visited the Protectorate from the 17th June to the 7th July.

\* Col. No. 152.



Evidence was taken from Government officials and from representatives of the European, Asiatic and Native communities, and the Commission visited a number of estates, native villages, and missions. Its report† was presented to Parliament on the 21st March, 1939.

### III.—POPULATION.

Nyasaland has a population of 1,894 Europeans, 1,631 Asiatics, and 1,635,804 natives, divided between the two Provinces in the following proportions:—

	<i>Europeans.</i>		<i>Asiatics.</i>		<i>Natives.</i>	
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Northern Province	279	184	222	42	370,237	420,557
Southern Province	847	584	1,077	294	388,475	456,535

The following table records the births and deaths of Europeans and Asiatics during the past three years:—

	<i>1936.</i>		<i>1937.</i>		<i>1938.</i>	
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Europeans ...	35	18	29	18	34	13
Asiatics ...	71	18	83	19	93	14

Although Europeans are resident in every district of the Protectorate, 76 per cent. of the European population is contained in the following five districts:—

Blantyre	...	...	...	...	681
Zomba	...	...	...	...	251
Cholo	...	...	...	...	184
Mlanje	...	...	...	...	170
Lilongwe	...	...	...	...	162

The native population is also very unevenly distributed. For instance, in the Southern Province the number of persons to the square mile varies from 557 on fertile land near the townships to 13.9 in the more arid areas of the Shire Valley.

Marriages.—Eleven marriages were registered under the British Central Africa Marriage Ordinance No. 3 of 1902, as against 15 in the preceding year.

Under the Native Marriage (Christian Rites) Registration Ordinance, 1923, 3,416 marriages were celebrated, compared with 3,803 in the preceding year.

### IV.—HEALTH.

The European medical staff consists of a Director of Medical Services, two Senior Medical Officers, a Pathologist, a Medical Entomologist and 14 Medical Officers; while the nursing personnel comprises a Matron and 11 Nursing Sisters.

† Cmd. 5949.

In addition there are 10 Asiatic Sub-Assistant Surgeons, 16 African Hospital Assistants, 104 male African Dressers and 35 female African Nurses.

Two European Health Inspectors, 19 African Inspectors and 36 Vaccinators or Rural Sanitary Inspectors are employed solely on sanitary duties.

One Senior Medical Officer was seconded during the later part of the year to the Nutrition Survey organized by the Colonial Office.

The care of the small and scattered European population occupies the full time of two Medical Officers, half the time of two other Medical Officers, and part of that of the remaining Medical Officers. At present, only two European Nursing Sisters are engaged in native work; the remainder are employed at the European Hospitals. The degree of attention which can be given to Africans is limited accordingly.

Government has only recently made a beginning with the training of African subordinate staff in medical work. The majority of dressers, sanitary inspectors, vaccinators and rural inspectors so far employed have only an elementary knowledge of preventive or curative medicine. The tuition of African hospital assistants is in the hands of the Scots Mission at Blantyre, where shortage of medical staff precludes any attempt at an ambitious standard of training.

The Health Inspectors are attached to the townships of Zomba and Blantyre and are wholly employed in superintending the sanitary routine in these towns.

### **The European Community.**

The majority of Europeans live in the southern highlands or in the Angoni highlands in the Northern Province. These areas are comparatively healthy, and the members of the European community, who are usually well housed and who normally take proper precautions against disease, generally remain in good health. Malaria does occur; but thanks to the almost universal practice of taking quinine as a prophylactic, complications are usually rare.

The Government maintains hospitals for Europeans at Blantyre and Zomba. In addition, there is a small European hospital at Malamulo near Cholo, provided by the Seventh-Day Adventist Mission; while a cottage hospital, supported by funds received from voluntary subscription, is in course of erection in Lilongwe.

Admissions to the two Government hospitals numbered 232, of which 25 were for confinements, 10 for amoebic dysentery, 17 for appendicitis and 49 for malaria. European out-patients are seen and treated at all district hospitals.



### **The Asiatic Community.**

This community is scattered throughout the territory, is mainly engaged in native trade and, as a rule, lives under conditions not conducive to the maintenance of robust health. Many of the Asiatic trading stores are in rural areas, and the storekeepers are the paid employees of firms with headquarters in the larger towns. The salaries paid to this class of employee are small; the houses which they occupy are usually inadequate and insanitary.

The main hospital for Asiatics is at Blantyre, and is provided by the Scots Mission under subsidy from the Government. Asiatics can also obtain treatment at most of the Government African hospitals, but advantage of this facility is seldom taken, except at Zomba.

### **The African Community.**

The Medical Department has not yet been able to make contact with the native population in the full measure which is necessary to gain the confidence of these people.

The Government maintains 15 hospitals for Africans; one of these has 140 beds, 6 have 50 beds and 8 have 30 beds. In addition, 94 dispensaries are provided, 3 of which have some accommodation for in-patients. The hospitals are well constructed buildings and are provided with equipment for giving effective treatment; but the majority are staffed with sub-assistant surgeons and hospital assistants, and have only a limited number of African subordinate staff. The dispensaries are staffed with dressers competent to deal only with very minor ailments.

The total number of admissions to the Government hospitals during the year was 11,383, an average of only 17 patients per bed provided. As the majority of patients admitted suffer from minor complaints, and are thus seldom detained for long periods, hospital beds are frequently vacant.

The rural dispensaries during the year attended to 332,015 cases, 105,580 being male and 126,435 being female. The average number of daily attendances at each dispensary was under 10.

Progress in gaining the confidence of the native cannot be expected until the Government finds it possible first, to provide Medical Officers for all districts, and to make sure that the treatment given at hospitals is of a high standard; secondly, to provide, at all the large native hospital units, European Nursing Sisters to assist the Medical Officer in developing ante-natal and child welfare clinics throughout the district; thirdly, to undertake the medical training of African subordinate staff who will be able to assist in the care of patients in the hospitals,

and to administer the dispensary units with sufficient skill, thereby gaining and retaining the confidence of the rural population; and fourthly, to provide funds for the regular inspection of dispensary units by Medical Officers and Nursing Sisters, and for the touring of native areas by these officers.

While the general standard of African housing in the Protectorate remains very low, it is increasingly evident from the number of better quality houses now being built that the rural native is anxious to improve his present housing conditions.

The water supplies in many areas have been improved by the provision of bore-holes and wells. Many villages, however, still depend for their supplies on shallow water-holes liable to serious pollution.

A large percentage of the population is affected with the ankylostome and bilharzia worms, and defective nutrition plays a not unimportant part in their state of health.

### **Venereal Diseases.**

Such evidence as is available indicates that venereal disease is spreading; and as the rural dispensaries are not competent to deal with such disease, it is probable that only a small percentage of the cases which occur come to the knowledge of the Medical Department. The Public Health Ordinance includes clauses providing for the compulsory treatment of venereal disease; but they are of little practical value, for on the one hand the penalties can seldom be enforced; and on the other a large majority of the reported cases are those who have voluntarily submitted to treatment. There is evidence that the natives have their own treatments for venereal disease, but it is feared that these remedial measures are inefficient. A certain number of cases are treated in the hospitals, and the number of applications for treatment has increased during the year.

Special venereal disease clinics have been inaugurated, and most of the hospitals have one special ward for the accommodation of venereal cases.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

There is only one Government ante-natal and child welfare centre for Africans. This is maintained at Zomba, and during the year 246 mothers brought their children to the centre, each attending on the average six times. The number of pregnant women confined in the hospital was 72. This institution has now functioned for four years, and attendance has shown a steady increase.



There is considerable scope for this work, and it is hoped that before long it will be possible to arrange for active ante-natal and child welfare centres not only at district hospitals, but also in connection with each one of the rural dispensaries. This, however, cannot be attempted without an increased European nursing staff and a larger number of trained African midwives.

The work of training African midwives has begun; it is undertaken by the Scots Mission at Blantyre, and by the Dutch Reformed Church Mission at Mlanda. The numbers in training, however, are still small.

Child welfare work is undertaken by various missions, and the Government subsidises that done by the Scots Mission at Blantyre and Livingstonia. A similar subsidy is to be given in 1939 to the Dutch Reformed Church Mission at Mlanda.

At the Jeanes School the wives of teachers and community workers are given some tuition in both maternity and child welfare.

### **Leprosy.**

The leprosy settlements are under the charge of missions, which are subsidised by the Government, payment being graduated to the number of cases treated. There are to-day 11 recognised leper centres. A total of 691 lepers received treatment during the year: this figure does not, of course, represent the total number of lepers in the country.

### **Mission Medical Work.**

Medical work is undertaken at many of the mission centres; at four of these qualified medical practitioners are available, while at many others there are trained nurses.

The most important of the mission medical activities are centred at Blantyre; where the Scots Church maintains a large hospital. No Government African hospital has been provided in this area, and the mission admits patients sent by Government Medical Officers. The unit is subsidised by Government to the extent of £600 per annum.

### **Lunacy.**

There is one Central Lunatic Asylum in the Protectorate, and this is situated at Zomba. The Commissioner of Police is *ex officio* Chief Inspector of the Asylum. The European executive staff consists of one Superintendent and one Deputy Superintendent, and there is an African staff of both male and female attendants. The Medical Officer at the African Hospital is in medical charge.

In the Asylum there is accommodation for one European, one Asiatic and 84 African males. The African male section

consists of 58 single rooms, one association ward for six patients, an observation yard containing nine single rooms, a hospital with 10 separate rooms and one reception room.

The female section is entirely separate and contains 20 single rooms.

A new and improved Mental Hospital is in course of erection.

During 1938 five African males and one African female were admitted. One European female was transferred to the Zomba European hospital. Three African males and one African female were released and placed in the care of their relatives.

Four African males died during the year, from cerebral syphilis, cardiac failure, miliary tuberculosis and pellagra respectively.

At the end of 1938 there remained in the Asylum 76 African males and 17 African females. The daily average population was 93.42.

The general health of the patients has been good. The daily average number in hospital was 3.74.

Religious services are held from time to time for the benefit of the Christian patients.

Patients are encouraged to work as gardeners, string makers and mat makers. The value of labour performed during the year, with that of the produce from gardens and plantations, amounted to £125 11s. 8d.

## **V.—SANITATION AND HOUSING.**

In many areas conditions are still primitive: and the Government, which fully appreciates the need for improved sanitation and housing, is hampered in its efforts towards progress by lack of funds. Provision has, however, been made for the improvement of quarters occupied by Government African employees.

The housing and sanitary facilities provided for labourers on estates in European ownership are seldom of a high standard. There is evidence, however, that owing partly to difficulties in obtaining labour, and partly to a genuine desire for improved conditions, a change may be expected in the near future. Some employers have indeed already begun to provide better housing for their African employees.

Native villages are in many cases badly planned; and although, as has already been pointed out, some improvement in the villagers' houses has been seen, little real progress can be expected until such time as it is possible to train an African staff capable of suggesting and directing the measures necessary for improvement.



# NUTRITION.

A nutrition Survey of the natives of certain areas of the Protectorate was begun in August. The personnel of the survey party includes Officers seconded from the Medical and Agricultural Departments, a nutrition investigator engaged by the Government, and an Anthropologist lent by the African Institute. The Survey is being directed by an Officer appointed by the Medical Research Council.

While no report can be expected until the survey is completed, there is already evidence to show that the information gained will prove of great value to the Government in the direction of its future policy.

## VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

### Agriculture.

#### WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Weather conditions during the 1937-8 season were less satisfactory than those of the previous year, particularly in the Southern Province where the rainfall in January and March was excessive.

The rainfall figures for the season are given in the following table:—

<i>Stations.</i>			<i>Total rainfall 1 Nov., 1937, to 30 April, 1938.</i>	<i>Normal for six wet months.</i>	<i>Total rainfall 1 May to 31 Oct., 1938.</i>	<i>Normal for six dry months.</i>
			<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Port Herald ...	A		34·49	29·1	3·11	3·6
Port Herald Experimental Station.			31·29	28·8	8·39	3·2
Chikwawa ...			24·32	29·7	2·00	2·3
Cholo ...	B		49·98	48·8	7·67	8·1
Makwasa ...			37·15	46·8	5·08	4·4
Nsikisi ...			No record		—	—
Lipumulo ...			43·21	—	9·22	—
Mikundi ...			46·51	—	8·47	—
Upper Mboma ...			48·07	—	·76	—
Masambanjati ...			50·71	—	10·94	—
Mlanje ...	C		58·37	66·6	9·91	14·
Chitakali ...			67·89	65·6	15·88	12·1
Thornwood...			49·52	67·8	10·35	11·6
Ruo...			44·36	53·7	6·66	6·3
Glenorchy ...			46·61	56·2	9·75	10·1
Sayama ...			No record		—	—
Lujeri ...			72·15	76·3	13·07	14·3
Chisambo ...			70·34	—	14·66	—
Nalipiri ...	D		50·12	51·9	11·76	11·0
Blantyre ...	E		42·17	39·9	2·03	3·3

Stations.	Zone.	Total rainfall 1 Nov., 1937, to 30 April, 1938. Inches.	Normal for six wet months. Inches.	Total rainfall 1 May to 31 Oct., 1938. Inches.	Normal for six dry months. Inches.
Limbe Catholic Mission.		43·11	—	4·82	—
Chingaluwe ...		40·68	42·8	5·37	3·3
Nyambadwe ...		36·63	39·0	1·62	2·9
Chiradzulu Boma ...		37·38	40·0	2·66	2·5
Nyungwe ...		37·48	—	·95	—
Michiru ...	F				
Namalanga... ..	G	29·19	29·9	2·08	1·0
Nasonia ... ..		38·72	36·9	7·16	1·9
Zomba Experimental Station.	H	63·47	46·8	2·35	4·6
Zomba Plateau ...		77·45	—	5·32	—
Likwenu ... ..		53·02	—	·31	—
Police Headquarters		61·65	41·9	2·29	1·8
Domasi ... ..		57·58	52·7	·56	—
Nankunda ... ..		66·78	—	3·00	—
Malosa ... ..		46·56	—	—	—
Mbidi ... ..	I	42·34	35·8	—	1·5
Makwapala Experimental Station.		27·77	34·0	—	1·5
Mwanza ... ..	K	35·23	37·2	3·18	·6
Liwonde ... ..	L	38·81	31·7	·28	1·1
Bilila ... ..		—	28·0	—	·7
Mandimba ... ..	M	—		—	
Namwera ... ..		42·85	42·2	·73	·3
Chipunga ... ..		34·85	35·0	1·29	·8
Fort Johnston ...	N	30·97	29·4	1·39	1·2
Monkey Bay ...		30·68	29·2	—	·9
Malindi ... ..		31·89	—	3·45	—
Golomoti ... ..		—	29·5	—	·1
Ncheu ... ..	P	43·88	37·0	1·08	·9
Likuni ... ..	S	36·07	32·9	1·18	1·5
Chimvua ... ..		39·21	—	·70	—
Lilongwe ... ..		41·89	32·7	2·25	·8
Nathenje ... ..		37·88	—	·82	—
Mpali ... ..	T	33·60	—	·48	—
Dowa ... ..		34·97	33·1	·35	·7
Fort Manning ...		42·27	39·8	—	2·5
Domira Bay ...	U	27·36	31·0	—	·1
Dedza ... ..	V	39·88	39·7	1·10	2·2
Kasungu ... ..	X	23·88	29·1	—	·3
Mzimba ... ..		35·19	31·7	—	·2
Kota Kota... ..	Y	35·68	48·2	·56	2·0
Chinteche ... ..	Z	43·95	62·9	8·05	5·1
Livingstonia ...		43·77	57·5	11·29	6·2
Karonga ... ..		40·10	52·3	1·32	2·8
Salima ... ..		28·02	—	·30	—
Glengarry ... ..		52·63	—	2·90	—

A résumé of weather conditions in areas growing tobacco is given on page 18.



# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

The amounts and local values to the nearest £ of agricultural exports for 1937 and 1938 are set out below:—

	1937.		1938.	
	Amount.	Value. £	Amount.	Value. £
Chillies and capsicums lb.	3,077	38	9,091	114
Coffee ... .. cwt.	908	2,051	251	587
Maize and maize flour lb.	1,171,005	1,307	161,041	180
Rice ... .. "	1,235	6	115,801	517
Tobacco :—				
<i>leaf</i> dark-fired ... .. "	7,013,224	204,552	6,130,539	178,802
,, flue-cured ... .. "	1,230,824	35,899	1,241,972	36,224
,, air-cured ... .. "	746,274	21,766	1,858,129	54,195
<i>strips</i> dark fired ... .. "	4,384,886	127,893	3,051,770	89,010
,, flue-cured ... .. "	646,081	18,844	506,715	14,779
,, air-cured ... .. "	515,644	15,040	674,518	19,673
Tea ... .. "	8,816,788	326,048	10,218,821	448,477
Grape Fruit ... .. "	—	—	38,438	323
Beeswax ... .. "	35,805	1,492	14,625	609
Cotton (lint) ... .. tons	2,066	105,722	3,060	99,953
Cotton seed ... .. "	895	2,440	675	1,688
Fibre of all kinds ... lb.	1,968,345	12,900	293,953	1,575
Groundnuts ... .. tons	—	—	278	1,724
Potatoes ... .. lb.	39,588	159	50,063	201
Soya beans ... .. "	—	—	476,956	806
Rubber ... .. "	203,175	3,449	159,165	3,316
Strophanthus... .. "	24,674	2,467	20,825	2,082

The most notable increases in exports during 1938 were in air-cured tobacco, tea, rice, soya beans and cotton.

The decline in exports of other types of tobacco was due partly to the unfavourable weather conditions and consequent short crop in the Southern Province, and partly to the fall in registrations of Native Trust Land growers, which decreased by 4·8 per cent. in the Southern Province and 31·3 per cent. in the Northern Province.

The larger exports of tea were due to the fact that additional areas came into full production during the year. Yields were satisfactory.

The increase in exports of rice resulted from increased planting and more efficient systems of marketing.

Cotton production improved considerably; for in addition to the 3,060 tons of lint shown as having been exported, it is estimated that the equivalent of 750 tons of lint was sold by natives outside the Protectorate.

## LOCUSTS.

The only species of locust observed in the Protectorate was the red locust (*Nomadacris Septemfasciata*, Serv.).

Adult swarms of the 11th generation appeared to leave the country almost completely during December, 1937, and with the exception of small areas on the southern boundary and in the

eastern part of the Upper Shire district no egg-laying took place. The resulting small and scattered hopper bands were mainly destroyed in the south though some escapes occurred in the Upper Shire district. Consequently from March to July very few adult swarms of the 12th generation were recorded throughout the Protectorate; but at the end of this period renewed activity began and several swarms entered the southern districts. By the end of the year swarms had penetrated all districts as far north as the southern end of the Dedza district; but that part of the Protectorate lying north of Lat.  $14^{\circ}$  S. remained free. Egg-laying took place in many districts during December, and some hopper bands of the 13th generation had hatched by the end of the month.

In the absence of hopper bands and adult swarms the crops of 1937-8 were not affected; but damage by adults of the 12th generation to early food crops of the 1938-9 season was reported from a few districts.

#### ADVISORY BODIES AND POLICY.

The Agricultural Advisory Board did not meet in 1938, and a recommendation by the Financial Commissioner that it should be abolished was accepted by the Government.

The Native Welfare Committee continued to consider and advise on various matters affecting the welfare of Africans. Its activities are described in Part XVII of this report.

The Agronomic Sub-Committee of the Native Welfare Committee, which was appointed in 1937, held seven meetings during the year. This Committee was concerned mainly with measures to counteract soil erosion and with proposals for the improved usage of land. The Soil Erosion Officer worked in close contact with, and under the general directions of, this Committee.

In September the report of the Commission appointed to Enquire into the Financial Position and Further Development of Nyasaland was published. In the main, its recommendations visualize further progress in directions in which work is already proceeding, and on lines along which development has started. Most of the recommendations, in so far as they concern agriculture and kindred subjects, have been approved, and are being implemented as promptly as circumstances permit.

The Agricultural Department and the Natives Tobacco Board continued, and slightly extended, the experimental and investigational work in progress at the Experimental Stations. Agricultural and Native Tobacco Board Supervisors, Agricultural Officers and their native staffs endeavoured to encourage better methods of producing crops both for sale and for food: and efforts were made to instil into the minds of cultivators a proper appreciation of the need for improved technique, particularly in relation to the prevention of soil erosion. This work,



which for some time has been intensively carried on in areas which produce native tobacco, is slowly spreading, especially in sectors where the Native Authorities take a personal interest. There is a distinct increase in the number of gardens planted in ridges across the slope, instead of in small mounds; and a considerable amount of contour ridging has been carried out with the assistance of the Agricultural staff.

Owing to a change in the demands of the tobacco market, which now requires a shorter and lighter dark fired leaf, composting, which was necessary to produce the long, heavy wrapper previously required, has lost ground.

Although there are many areas of the Protectorate which may well be termed congested, and in which cultivation is practised on undesirably steep slopes, yet in these areas as well as in less populous districts it is not easy, owing to the absence abroad of a large proportion of the able bodied males, to ensure adequate cultivation. Much of the work which would normally be done by the men is perforce left to women and children, who are incapable of the heavy labour so often necessary; and in such circumstances, improvement in methods is difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

During the year under review the functions and work of the Native Tobacco Board were extended. The Board undertook to purchase all Native Trust Land tobacco, to pack it and to deliver it for sale on the newly established auction floors. The establishment and staffing of buying stations to purchase an estimated crop of 10,000,000 lb. involving perhaps, 300,000 separate valuations and purchases, as well as the estimation of prices to be paid for different grades so that there should be no appreciable profit or loss on the whole transaction, required no little organisation, but was nevertheless carried through to a successful conclusion. The question whether it should be made obligatory for all dark fired tobacco to be sold on the auction floors has been exercising the minds of all concerned. A Commission of Enquiry was appointed in December to investigate and report on this and on other matters connected with the tobacco industry.

The staff of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation in the Protectorate was increased during the year by one Entomologist posted for the purpose of intensive work on the life history of the red bollworm, with a view to the improvement of means of controlling this pest. Close contact was maintained between the staffs of the Corporation and of the Agricultural Department throughout the year, and mutual assistance was given in the improvement of cotton production in the Protectorate. The Corporation staff take a wide view of their functions and, without in any way neglecting work on the cotton crop in all its

aspects of local importance, did much useful investigational work on crops other than cotton which are, or may be, advantageously grown in rotation with it.

Contact was maintained with the Jeanes School, where lectures were given by Native Tobacco Board staff. Some community workers trained at the school have now been posted to the districts, where they have been assisted by Agricultural Officers and Supervisors in the establishment of model holdings. These men, working in close touch with the Agricultural Department on the one side and with the Native Authorities on the other, should form an important link in the chain of measures for the improvement of native agricultural and general welfare.

### TOBACCO.

The weather during the dry period in which young plants were being raised for transplanting was conducive to good growth, and little disease was seen. A few plantings were made in November, but most of the southern areas were planted in December and the bulk of the northern plantings took place early in January.

Rainfall was unusually heavy during December, 1937, and January, 1938, and unfortunately was excessive throughout the Southern Province during the remainder of the season. In the Northern Province, however, favourable growing conditions prevailed during February and March. The results were, in the Southern Province, a crop of low yield and quality; and in the Northern Province, thanks to the good conditions during the critical period, a very good crop indeed. The air and sun-cured tobacco of Ncheu also benefited by satisfactory weather conditions, and a good crop was obtained.

The total amounts of different types exported were:—

	<i>lb.</i>		
Dark-fired...	...	...	9,182,129
Flue-cured	...	...	1,748,687
Air-cured...	...	...	2,532,647

The average amount produced by growers on Native Trust Lands was 177 lb. in the Northern Province and 159 lb. in the Southern Province.

The amounts of dark tobacco purchased from growers on Native Trust Lands and Private Estates respectively are shown in the following table:—

	<i>Northern Province.</i>		<i>Southern Province.</i>	
	<i>lb.</i>		<i>lb.</i>	
Native Trust Land	...	7,168,139	...	1,892,242
Private Estates	...	4,658,081	...	1,293,881
Total		<u>11,826,220</u>		<u>3,186,123</u>



The total production of dark tobacco was 12,476,566 lb., and of air-cured 2,535,777 lb.

At the end of 1938, stocks of Nyasaland tobacco in the United Kingdom stood at 32,282,916 lb., slightly over two and a half years' supply on the usual basis. Consumption of Nyasa tobacco during 1938 amounted to 12,555,390 lb.; this was an increase of 32,214 lb. on that of the previous years, and represented 23·4 per cent. of all Empire tobacco consumed, compared with 24·0 per cent. in 1937.

### COTTON.

The 1938 season was an improvement on the two previous seasons as far as production was concerned; but prices were disappointing.

The amount of seed cotton produced from Native Trust Lands and sold in the country amounted to 5,574 tons which, with 1,591 tons produced on Private Estates, gave a total of 7,165 tons, an increase of 7·98 per cent. on the previous year's figures. It is conservatively estimated that in addition from 2,000 to 2,500 tons were, by reason of the higher price offered over the border, taken across the Shire river from the Lower Shire district and sold outside Nyasaland.

There was an increase in production in the main cotton-growing areas of the Lower River, where 3,260 tons *plus* the amount sold over the border were produced, as against 3,002 tons in the previous year; but production decreased in the central part of the Southern Province, with 666 tons against 857 in 1937, and in the southern part of the Northern Province where only 1,345 tons were produced as against 1,659 tons in the previous year.

Prices also were lower, averaging ·821d. for No. 1, ·586d. for No. 2, and ·203d. for No. 3. The corresponding prices in 1937 were 1·039d., ·285d., and ·203d.

The total sum paid to Native Trust Land growers for cotton was £39,629, together with the unknown sum realized for sales outside the Protectorate, as against £49,199 in 1937. 87·60 per cent. of the crop was bought as No. 1, as against 83·91 per cent. in 1937.

A new system of marketing was introduced during 1938. This consisted of selling by auction, before the markets opened, the right and the obligation to purchase all cotton brought to the particular market. On the whole the system worked well, though detailed improvement is still indicated. Marketing was simplified, the quality of lint exported was improved, and the seller received a better price in comparison with the market value of the cotton than in previous years.

The incidence of red bollworm remained high; but the loss of crop from this pest was less than in the previous year, owing

partly to the more complete destruction of cotton plants which was effected at the end of 1937. Further improvement in this respect is still needed.

#### TEA.

The tea industry continued to increase its output as further areas came to maturity. The International Tea Restriction Scheme, to which Nyasaland is a party, limited the maximum acreage to be planted in the Protectorate to 17,700 acres. Only 588 acres of this quota remained to be planted at the beginning of 1938 and 191 acres at the end of the year. The first period of restriction under the scheme came to an end during the year and in December a further grant of 2,500 acres was made to Nyasaland. The new allocation was not distributed by the end of the year. This allocation is subject to certain conditions of which the more important are that the maximum of the cess on tea exported was raised from 1s. to 2s. per 100 lb., and that the quota for export during the second restriction period of five years was decided.

Production declined from 14,466,592 lb. in 1937 to 10,858,176 lb. in 1938, but exports rose from 8,816,788 lb., valued at £326,038 in 1937 to 10,218,821 lb., valued at £448,477 in 1938.

The Agricultural Department's tea experimental station at Mlanje continued the investigation of problems affecting tea production, particularly fertilizers, pruning methods, methods of preventing erosion, effects of varying intensities of plucking and *Armillaria* root disease.

#### NATIVE FOOD CROPS.

In the Southern Province maize, the main native food crop, gave on the whole poor yields. After promising extremely well in January, both growth and productivity were checked by the continuous and excessive rain. In the North conditions were more satisfactory, and a fair crop was reaped. Owing to floods on the Shire and the high level of the lake, considerable areas in which food crops are normally planted were inundated. In such areas, however, increased plantings of emergency crops such as sweet potatoes and cassava were fairly general, and there was no serious shortage of food.

The planting of groundnuts increased, particularly in the Ncheu-Dedza areas; but owing to dissatisfaction with the price offered the bulk of the crop was not sold, and much of it must have been consumed by the growers. Soya beans and millets yielded fairly well: and bean crops were satisfactory.

Rice production in the Kota Kota district increased. The installation of a rice mill enabled a considerable quantity of *Faya* rice to be treated, and the resulting product met with a ready sale.



While the supply of native food crops was generally adequate for requirements there was no surplus; and as usual there was a general scarcity in the month or two before harvest. Until the native becomes more provident and makes sure of adequate food supplies before selling or converting into beer what he considers may be surplus, such shortages must recur.

### OTHER CROPS.

Sisal estates, which reopened in 1936, continued to cut, but exports decreased from 1,968,345 lb., valued at £12,900 in 1937, to 293,953 lb., valued at £1,575 in 1938.

The acreage of tung oil planted by Europeans again increased from 1,677 acres in 1937 to 2,067 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres in 1938. The bulk of the plantings have been of *Aleurites montana*, which in most areas is much easier to establish and grows more rapidly than *A. fordii*. A number of the trees are now in bearing, but the fruit produced has mostly been used as seed and no crushing has taken place in the territory. Trial shipments of nuts have been sent to England for analysis.

There was a further decrease in the area under coffee, from 566 acres in 1937 to 373 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres in 1938. The causes of this decline have been noted in previous reports.

## FORESTRY.

### General.

The aim of Government is to assist in, and to stimulate, both the provision of adequate supplies of all classes of forest produce required by the community, and also the preservation of a cover of forest or natural vegetation in catchment areas and on lands particularly liable to erosion or desiccation. The policy by which this aim is being achieved is outlined below under three main headings:—

#### A.—*Preservation of demarcated forests and woodland.*

This is effected in three categories, for which there is legal provision:—

(1) Forest Reserves. (State forests under the control and management of the central Government.)

(2) Native Authority forests. (Government forests under the control and management of the native authorities.)

(3) Village forest areas. (Communal forests under the control and management of village headmen.)

#### B.—*Control of the felling of trees and cultivation on certain categories of land.*

Under this heading the main measures, for which legal powers are provided, are:—

(1) Control of the felling of trees and the cultivation of land on stream banks.

(2) Control of the felling, cutting and removal of forest produce on the tops and slopes of any hills specified by a competent officer.

(3) Limitation and definition of rights to forest produce on State lands.

C.—*Supplementary measures.*

(1) The provision by the Crown Lands Ordinance of afforestation covenants which automatically apply to all Government leases unless especially exempted.

(2) Government assistance in the management of both native authority and village forests.

(3) Education and advice to the public on forestry generally.

(4) Experiments and research in the silvicultural treatment and economic working of the forests.

(5) Encouragement of the most economical utilization of timber and other forest products.

(6) Co-operation with the administration and with technical departments in schemes of land-planning for the well-being of the rural population.

The great local importance of forest conservation for protective purposes, i.e., in the interests of water supply and agriculture, has been stressed in previous reports; fortunately protection can usually go hand in hand with production. Present forest policy is considered to be adequate, provided there is reasonable progress in modifying native methods of agriculture and in a better economic use of the land for various purposes.

FOREST RESOURCES.

The forests of the Protectorate are mainly woodland and savanna types rather than closed forest, and the majority are composed of small trees of which only a very few species provide durable timber. Trees of dimensions and quality suitable for conversion into sawn timber are confined chiefly to a few small mountain coniferous forests, to stream banks in some regions, and to a sparse distribution in certain types of woodland and savanna. The total area of forest and good quality savanna is estimated to be less than 4,000 square miles, or about 10 per cent. of the land area of the territory. Investigation of the forests has, in the main, been completed on a broad basis and forest policy has evolved accordingly. Reservations of forest have so far fitted in admirably with the concept of regional planning for better land utilization.

No new State forest reserves were constituted during 1938; their number remains at 48 with a total area of 2,623 square miles, which is just over seven per cent. of the land area. The majority are primarily protective, as they comprise main watersheds and catchment areas. All reserves are free from rights



of user of any kind. During the year, 397 new village forests areas with an acreage of 19,018 were registered; the total at the end of the year was 4,359 areas with an acreage of 213,946. No Native Authority forests were constituted under the recently approved scheme, but a considerable amount of preliminary work was done and at the end of the year proposals for the classification of a few areas were in the final stages of preparation.

The main forest reconnaissances of the year were carried out in the North Nyasa district, and resulted in preliminary recommendations for the constitution of both State forest reserves and Native Authority forests. The reports on the reconnaissances contained much information on local land usage and its effects, as well as on topography, vegetation and soils. The reports discuss in some detail the difficult problems which exist in the Misuku region, where nearly all the land consists of steep slopes, and where over-population, immigration, over-grazing, and destructive methods of growing finger-millet contribute to a serious state of affairs which urgently needs joint consultation and action on the part of all departments concerned and which is at present receiving the consideration of the Agronomic Sub-Committee of the Native Welfare Committee.

Largely because of the comparative scarcity of major timber, the great bulk of the wood used by the native population in constructional work is in the form of short poles. A vast quantity of wood is needed because, owing to the ravages of termites, borers and fungi, huts have to be renewed every two or three years. Much wood is destroyed in the periodical clearing of land for agriculture. There is a small but growing demand by natives for sawn or squared timber for making doors, window frames and rough furniture.

The native population is allowed free access to forest produce from native trust lands, subject to certain restrictions; but in the case of demarcated forests this concession is subject to the special regulations for these forests. Whereas in the past the natives relied almost solely upon undemarcated woodlands for their supplies, they are now making increasing use of the demarcated village forest area, particularly in the more densely populated regions.

As the total number of Europeans and Asiatics in the Protectorate is less than 4,000, and as there are no major industries other than agriculture, their timber requirements are small compared with those of the native population. However, they demand a far better quality; and although it is estimated that the total consumption of sawn timber in the Protectorate rarely reaches 200,000 cubic feet in a year, by far the greater part of



this is accounted for by Government and non-natives. Imports of unmanufactured timber have remained at a low figure for many years, but there has recently been a somewhat rapid increase in imports of plywood for tea chests. The possibility of substituting a local product for plywood has been explored, but without success. Firewood is the general fuel for domestic use, and considerable quantities are consumed in tobacco-curing, tea factories, brick-making, lime-burning, water transport, and on the railway north of Blantyre. Only an insignificant amount of charcoal is manufactured.

The need for maintaining concentrated supplies of timber conveniently close at hand has led to the establishment of forest plantations, both by private enterprise and by Government. The development of an export trade in timber is out of the question; even if resources were greater, high transport cost to the coast would prove an unsurmountable obstacle.

#### FOREST MANAGEMENT.

The state forest reserves are under the control of the central government; the degree of intensity of their management is governed entirely by local markets. In Mlanje district two mountain reserves contain very small patches of valuable coniferous forest (*Widdringtonia whytei*), and are under comparatively intensive management although they are situated at some distance from markets. The whole of the output from these forests is converted to sawn timber under the agency of the Forestry Department. Regeneration of the forests is mainly by planting, although a small amount of natural regeneration is obtained and fostered. In two forest reserves, near Zomba and Limbe, planting of conifers has been carried out for the production of major timber, and there is now a steadily increasing output; the great demand for the timber from the Zomba plantations is ample evidence of their success. Other forest reserves, situated near townships, are under intensive management mainly for the production of poles and firewood. An important feature of these reserves is the sale of produce at very cheap rates to urban natives.

There are three vital factors governing the possibility of extending utilization, with more intensive production, to other forest reserves. There are, first, the great paucity of major timber resources in the forests, and their sporadic occurrence; secondly, the distance of most reserves from markets and main lines of transport; and thirdly, the public preference for softwood timber. Because of these factors, the output of major timber from forest reserves is almost entirely confined to coniferous softwood timber produced in natural forest and plantations; the output of hardwood sawn timber from broad-leaved forest is quite insignificant. It is evident that any considerable



increase in the demand, by non-natives, for major timber can best be met by further concentrated planting of conifers, in forest reserves suitably situated as regards the distribution and transport of timber. The successful establishment of exotic pines, following the introduction into the Protectorate of the mycorrhiza necessary for their root growth, has greatly improved the outlook.

The management of a Native Authority forest will be undertaken by the Forestry Department until such time as the Native Authority is prepared to assume charge. All the revenue derived from the area will be paid to the Native Treasury to meet, in whole or in part, necessary expenditure on protection and management. The training of a staff for the subsequent control and management of a forest by the Native Authority itself, when the time is ripe for assuming charge, will be carried out by the Forestry Department.

The village communal forests are under the control and management of village headmen. In areas in which protective measures have been carried out for a few years, the great increase in regeneration and the rate of growth has been remarkable, exceeding the expectations of the natives. The development of dense thickets automatically suppresses or eliminates the coarser grasses, and so progressively reduces the hazard of fire. Progress is being made in teaching and demonstrating silvicultural treatment for improving the growing stocks.

In the management of the village forest areas a probable future change in village needs will have to be anticipated. Whereas at present only poles are required for constructional purposes, a demand for better houses, and for carts, etc., will in time develop and sawn timber will be needed; and this will necessitate a considerable lengthening of the rotation for the forest areas.

The growing scarcity, in districts where water transport is common, of trees suitable for making canoes, led to the introduction in 1936 of a scheme whereby the Native Authorities concerned make quinquennial counts of the suitable trees in their areas, and thereafter fix an annual quota of such trees which may be felled. To ensure complete control, all canoes are registered and marked.

Estate plantations of exotic trees (mainly *Eucalyptus* species) have generally been disappointing except as regards the supply of poles and firewood. In converting eucalyptus trees to sawn timber, loss by splitting and warping is very high and invariably exceeds 80 per cent. of the round volume even when some air-seasoning and other precautions have been taken. Whether such wastage could be much reduced by means of kiln-seasoning is doubtful; in any case the area of eucalyptus plantation



on most estates is too small to justify the cost of an up-to-date seasoning-kiln. Trials on estates, of species other than eucalyptus are being advocated by Government.

Advice on forestry matters was given to the public whenever it was asked for, and in a few cases visits to private estates were made by forest officers in an advisory capacity. Lectures were given by forest officers at the Jeanes' Training Centre and elsewhere; a paper on "Land Use", written by the Conservator of Forests, was published in Chinyanja and widely distributed to educational institutions and Government Departments. Contributions on the subject of forestry and land matters were made to the local native newspaper. Forestry exhibits were staked at agricultural shows at Limbe and Lilongwe. Tree seeds and nursery plants were issued free to natives, and on payment to non-natives.

Revisional courses for African foresters were held as usual; forest policy and all branches of the work were reviewed, and new developments were fully discussed. Much of the practical work was linked up with that of previous years' courses, so that the foresters were able to appreciate the progressive and contrasting results of different silvicultural systems. At both courses stress was laid on the need for plans of rural development, and on the future duties of the forest staff in reciprocal work with the Department of Agriculture. The Soil Erosion Officer held a special course of instruction for the new Soil Erosion Rangers.

It is a part of the Government policy that land conservation programmes are to be a most important part of the duties of officers of the Agricultural, Forestry and Veterinary Departments, whether or not the immediate task is one which would formerly have been considered outside the range of responsibility of the department of the officer concerned. The statement of policy repeats Sir Frank Stockdale's dictum: "In any district the District Officer should be the estate agent, with the technical officers' experience and assistance to help him in his work. His first consideration should be the prosperity of the people, the proper use of their land, and the welfare of their stock." A standard minimum programme of soil conservation work, which District Officers are required to initiate in all parts of the Protectorate, has been published. A rapid extension of reciprocity between departments is probable in relation to this programme, and in some areas a practical beginning has already been made.

Much of the year's work of the soil erosion branch consisted of a survey of the causes of erosion in a number of specific regions. Study was made of the means necessary to control erosion and, in some localities, a small amount of field work was carried out to determine not only the technical efficiency



of control, but also the reaction of the people to suggested remedies. As a result of these studies there is reason for considerable optimism as regards the control, by simple measures, of erosion in cultivated lands. There can be no rapid solution of difficulties where the prime cause of erosion is grazing.

### LIVESTOCK.

The year 1938 was a profitable one so far as native livestock was concerned. The outbreak of East Coast fever in the Southern Province was completely eradicated, and restrictions were removed. Repairs to the railway bridge over the Shire River restored communications with the North, and it was again possible to bring down cattle for slaughter in the Southern Province. By the end of the year natives had become familiar with the transport of cattle by rail and the system is now firmly established.

In the North Nyasa district, where during the previous year trypanosomiasis had necessitated the prohibition of all cattle movements, the disease was eradicated by treatment and quarantine measures; and by September conditions were normal, and the cattle trade with Tanganyika was renewed.

During the first half of the year the Veterinary Officer in charge of native and stock farms in the Mzimba district was absent from the Protectorate, and no relief was available. The officer returned in June; and from that time onwards considerable progress was made with the manufacture of ghee, the final output being more than twice that of 1937. The demonstration stock farm so much impressed the natives, that requests for similar institutions were received from all over the district; it was not found possible, however, to start more than one additional farm.

Although little progress was made during the year in the curing and export of hides, there were signs that considerable improvement in this direction may be hoped for in the near future.

The native milk trade maintained the progress made in the previous year.

A considerable number of horses was imported. In previous years horses have been used principally for equitation; but during 1938 one firm at least imported horses for farm work. The experiment has proved successful.

Horse sickness was not widely prevalent, though some cases, which proved fatal, occurred. It is confidently expected that the local and recently-discovered "Blantyre virus" will be

included in the next consignment of vaccine, when deaths from horse-sickness should be very considerably reduced.

### **Minerals.**

The following minerals are known to occur in the Protectorate:—Gold, in small amounts in the Lisungwe Valley, Blantyre district; bauxite, in the Mlanje Mountains; iron-ores, ilmenite and rutile in the Port Herald hills; corundum and zircon at Tambani Hill, Central Shire district; asbestos, kyanite, and iron-ore in the Ncheu district; iron-manganese ore on Chilwa Island; graphite and mica in the Dowa and Ncheu districts; massive garnet in the South Nyasa district; galena in the Dowa district; coal in the Lower Shire and North Nyasa districts; and cement materials at Lake Malombe and in the North Nyasa district. Mica and graphite were worked during the European War and shortly afterwards, and gold is worked from time to time on a small scale. The Ncheu kyanite deposits were examined during 1938 by a mining company, with a view to their exploitation; and the examination of the Mlanje bauxite deposits by another mining company was still in progress at the end of the year.

Aided by a grant from the Colonial Development Fund, an investigation of the mineral resources of the country is in progress. During the year the staff examined parts of the Lower Shire, Central Shire, West Nyasa and Mzimba districts.

The British South Africa Company continued the geological and mineralogical examination of the areas over which it holds the mineral rights.

### **Water Supply.**

The activities of the Geological Survey Department were devoted in part during 1938 to the continued improvement and extension of village water supplies with the aid of grants from the Colonial Development Fund.

By the end of the year, 457 wells and bore-holes had been constructed, giving a minimum daily yield of 2,448,029 gallons and serving a population of at least 93,000 natives and non-natives. By their construction about 725 square miles of unoccupied or sparsely populated country have been opened up for further settlement.

These water supply activities, which it is proposed to continue until 1940, were carried out in the Lake Shore area of the South Nyasa district, and in the highlands in the Dowa and Lilongwe districts. They greatly stimulated agricultural production in these areas and thus materially assisted in the economic development of the country. Moreover, by providing



new land for native settlement, they relieved congestion in a number of overcrowded areas. Many wells and bore-holes were provided for native hospitals, dispensaries, markets and rest-houses.

## VII.—COMMERCE.

Since Nyasaland is primarily an agricultural country, its prosperity and the volume of its trade are chiefly dependent upon the yields and market prices of its exportable products. These products, of which the most important are tea, tobacco, cotton, and sisal, are sold principally in Great Britain, though in the cases of tobacco and cotton there has of recent years been a marked increase in trade with other countries.

The tobacco crop was adversely affected by climatic conditions and decreased by 7·4 per cent.; but the loss in quantity suffered by producers was more than offset by the better prices paid as a result of the new auction system of marketing. Both tea and cotton showed increased yields of 15·9 per cent. and 48 per cent. respectively. Besides these staple products larger harvests of soya beans, rice and groundnuts combined to produce a record total weight of domestic produce exports.

The value of imports increased by £76,867 (10·72 per cent.). Of this sum Great Britain obtained £57,051, representing 74·2 per cent. of the increase, and her share of Nyasaland's total imports advanced from 40·8 per cent. in 1937, to 44·1 per cent. in 1938. Imports from Japan increased from £207,349 in 1937, to £225,060 in 1938, owing to a general expansion of trade and to the fact that merchants took advantage of falling market prices to lay in stocks far in excess of their normal requirements.

With the improvement in the average prices paid for flue-cured tobacco, European producers contributed to the general prosperity; and larger importations of machinery, iron and steel, and wines and spirits were recorded. Although there was a decrease in the actual number of motor cars and motor lorries imported, sales from local stocks increased.

An expansion of bazaar trade indicated an increase in the spending capacity of the native. The actual prices paid for cotton were lower than in the previous year, but the quantity produced was considerably greater, and the total of payments made showed an increase. The current year's cash disbursements were further augmented by monies brought back by natives repatriated from South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, together with remittances sent home by emigrants working in those territories.

The total number of bicycles imported during the year amounted to 8,232, which represents an increase of 66·7 per cent. While this improvement may be principally attributed to large importations by repatriated natives, it is also due partly to the additional earnings of native producers. Further evidence of native prosperity lies both in the greater demand for articles of a semi-luxurious nature such as second-hand clothing, beads, crockery, and umbrellas, and also the proportionate increase in the importation of piece goods of durable quality.

Cotton piece goods represented 24·2 per cent. of trade imports and maintained their position as the largest class of merchandise imported. Japanese manufactures, with 93·75 per cent. of the total quantity, maintained their lead in this market. Similar imports from the United Kingdom declined by 1·76 per cent. to 4·34 per cent., probably because British manufactures are unable to compete economically with the cheaper and popular piece goods manufactured in Japan.

Nyasaland, being within the region covered by the Congo Basin Treaties and the Convention of St. Germain-en-Laye, 1919, may not grant preferential treatment to any country, and its Customs tariff applies equally to imports from all nations.

Total values of imports, domestic exports and re-exports for the last five years:—

<i>Year.</i>			<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Domestic Exports.</i>	<i>Re-exports.</i>
			£	£	£
1934	...	...	518,146	753,369	18,621
1935	...	...	628,499	736,312	18,512
1936	...	...	673,528	796,627	9,457
1937	...	...	746,575	887,058	14,867
1938	...	...	833,324	959,810	14,919

Percentage of total value of imports (including Government) from the Empire and foreign countries and principal supplying countries for the last five years:—



Year.	Percentage from the Empire.	Percentage from Foreign Countries.	Principal Supplying Countries.	
			Empire.	Foreign.
1934 ...	55·3	44·3	United Kingdom (48·3), India, South Africa, Canada.	Japan (23·8), Germany, U.S.A.
1935 ...	50·6	49·4	United Kingdom (44·5), India, South Africa, Canada.	Japan (29·4), Germany, U.S.A.
1936 ...	53·3	46·7	United Kingdom (46·2), India, South Africa, Canada.	Japan (25·1), Germany, U.S.A.
1937 ...	48·9	51·1	United Kingdom (42·0), India, South Africa, Canada.	Japan (29·0), Germany, U.S.A.
1938 ...	51·6	48·4	United Kingdom (45·7), India, South Africa, Canada.	Japan (28·3), Germany, U.S.A.

Percentage of total value of domestic exports sent to the Empire and foreign countries and principal countries of destination for the last five years:—

Year.	Percentage to the Empire.	Percentage to Foreign Countries.	Principal Countries of Destination.	
			Empire.	Foreign.
1934 ...	97·2	2·8	United Kingdom (94·7), S. Rhodesia.	Belgium.
1935 ...	94·7	5·3	United Kingdom (88·9), S. Rhodesia.	Belgium and Holland.
1936 ...	93·9	6·1	United Kingdom (91·3), S. Rhodesia.	Belgium and Germany.
1937 ...	94·7	5·3	United Kingdom (91·2), S. Rhodesia.	Belgium, Holland and Netherlands East Indies.
1938 ...	94·0	6·0	United Kingdom (90·6), S. Rhodesia.	Poland and Portugal, Belgium and Portugal.

Quantities and values of principal imports (including Government) for the years 1937 and 1938, indicating the principal source of supply:—

<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Unit of Quantity.</i>	<i>1937.</i>		<i>1938.</i>		<i>Principal sources of supply.</i>
		<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	
Provisions, preserved, tinned or bottled, fruits, meat, fish, etc.	Cwt.	3,887	£ 13,520	5,467	£ 17,236	United Kingdom.
Spirits ... ..	Pf. and Imp. gallons.	6,596	10,142	7,110	11,106	United Kingdom.
Iron and steel manufactures.	Cwt.	27,527	44,294	34,269	60,242	United Kingdom, Germany, Japan.
Machinery and implements.	Cwt.	13,271	45,795	16,901	59,272	United Kingdom, Germany, U.S.A.
Cotton piece goods...	Lin. yards.	11,901,891	173,985	12,812,164	193,238	United Kingdom, Japan (93·75 per cent.), Germany.
Blankets ... ..	Number	89,024	8,373	119,298	10,888	Belgium, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Japan.
Shirts and singlets...	Doz.	25,501	11,691	36,454	12,780	Japan, United Kingdom.
Motor spirit ... ..	Gal.	551,196	41,902	383,364	42,115	Iran. Netherlands East Indies, U.S.A.
Vehicles and parts...	—	—	81,634	—	97,022	United Kingdom, Canada, U.S.A.
Fertilizers ... ..	Tons	2,255	21,662	2,270	22,434	United Kingdom, Holland.



Quantities and values of principal domestic exports and re-exports for the years 1937 and 1938:—

<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Unit of Quantity.</i>	<i>1937.</i>		<i>1938.</i>	
		<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
			£		£
(a) Domestic Exports :—					
Maize and maize flour ... ..	lb.	1,171,005	1,307	161,041	180
Tobacco ... ..	„	14,536,933	423,994	13,463,463	392,683
Tea ... ..	„	8,816,788	326,038	10,218,821	448,477
Cotton ... ..	„	4,628,821	105,721	6,853,894	99,953
Cotton seed ... ..	„	2,004,734	2,439	1,512,883	1,688
Fibre (sisal) ... ..	„	1,968,345	12,900	293,953	1,575
(b) Re-exports :—					
Cotton manufactures	„	29,609	2,403	32,637	2,358
Iron and Steel manufactures ...	„	504,084	1,223	684,354	1,890
Vehicles and parts	„	19,158	1,631	29,452	2,964

Particulars of the imports and exports of coin for the last five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Gold.</i>	<i>Silver.</i>	<i>Bronze and Nickel.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	£	£	£	£
(a) Imports :—				
1934 ... ..	—	1,398	—	1,398
1935 ... ..	—	26,446	1,800	28,246
1936 ... ..	—	116,211	4,350	120,561
1937 ... ..	—	115,242	1,650	116,892
1938 ... ..	—	—	500	500
(b) Exports :—				
1934 ... ..	10,870	4,350	18	15,238
1935 ... ..	3,356	11,582	4	14,942
1936 ... ..	1,960	9,622	3	11,585
1937 ... ..	1,118	13,585	37	14,740
1938 ... ..	592	27,261	93	27,946

### Customs.

Duties under the Customs Ordinance, 1906, were distributed during 1938 as under:—

*Import Duty :—*

Table 1.—Specified duty on motor vehicles: matches, cement, wines and spirits, soap, ales, beers, tobacco, umbrellas, cotton piece goods, etc.

Table 2.—33 per cent. ad valorem on second-hand clothing and perfumed spirits.

Table 3.—28 per cent. 'on' luxury articles, e.g., firearms, jewellery, silks, etc.

Table 4.—13 per cent. ad valorem on necessities and articles of common use, e.g., provisions, etc.

Table 5.—20 per cent. ad valorem on articles not otherwise specifically charged under other tables.

Table 6.—3 per cent. ad valorem on articles of an industrial nature, e.g., machinery, packing materials, etc.

### **Publicity and Tourist Traffic.**

The Publicity Committee is appointed by the Governor and consists of an official Director and eight voluntary unofficial members.

The sum normally voted for publicity purposes is £800 a year; but this has proved inadequate for anything but the most elementary schemes of advertising. An attractive Publicity Bureau has now been erected at Blantyre, and it is hoped that it may become possible to appoint a whole-time Publicity Officer.

The outstanding feature of the year's tourist campaign has been closer co-operation with neighbouring territories, particularly Southern and Northern Rhodesia, as a result of which overlapping of publicity measures will be avoided and each country will benefit from the attractions of its neighbours.

The Bureau is now provided with comprehensive literature for free distribution to intending visitors. During the year an additional illustrated folder was published for mass distribution at tourist agencies, shipping and railway offices, exhibitions, etc., and arrangements were made for the issue of photographic publicity postcards early in 1939.

An increasing number of inquiries and requests for literature and maps was received and dealt with during the year. Other activities included the publication of illustrated articles in the South African, Southern Rhodesian and Beira newspapers, and in the "South African" annual. A standing advertisement was also inserted in "East Africa and Rhodesia".

The Rest Houses provided by Government at Kasungu, Mzimba, Njakwa and Fort Hill on the Great North Road continued to prove very useful and were much appreciated by visitors. It is intended to improve these houses considerably during 1939. Various schemes are also under consideration for improving the accommodation at hotels on the Lake Shore and in the more northerly parts of the Protectorate.

The number of European visitors to Nyasaland during the last five years is as follows:—

1934	...	...	...	...	1,537
1935	...	...	...	...	1,929
1936	...	...	...	...	1,624
1937	...	...	...	...	2,026
1938	...	...	...	...	2,298



### VIII.—LABOUR.

The 1938 population survey afforded figures to show that, of the 424,000 adult males who were fit to work for wages, approximately 113,500 were at work in other territories, while 156,000 were earning their living in Nyasaland by or in connection with the production of economic crops. The remaining balance of 154,000 is more than sufficient to meet internal labour requirements, which may be put at approximately 63,500 men.

Generally speaking, labour is plentiful; though in certain areas, such as the heavily cultivated tea region, a shortage of labour is sometimes experienced, particularly in the plucking and curing seasons. There are no mines in Nyasaland, and labour is employed chiefly in agriculture; in tea, cotton, tobacco, soap, sisal and rubber factories; by commercial firms, railways and Government Departments; and in domestic service.

European farmers employ practically no contract labour, and depend for their requirements either on resident native tenants or on casual labour. These employees work on a month-to-month basis, and 26 working days entitle them to a month's wages. The "ticket" system, whereby each native employee is issued with a ticket on the day he commences to work, and the 26 working days have to be completed within a total period of 42 days, is in almost universal use.

Employees of commercial firms, factories, railways and Government also work on the month-to-month basis, the definition of a month being "a calendar month" which, except in the case of contracts of service by domestic or personal servants, shall include 26 working days.

All labour, both inside and outside the Protectorate, is subject to the general supervision of the labour branch of the Provincial Administration. The branch at present consists of a Labour Commissioner, who is stationed at Blantyre, and a Labour Officer posted at Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia; while a second Labour Officer is to take up duty at Johannesburg in 1939. The Labour Commissioner is in general control of all labour affairs which affect or may affect the Protectorate, and is the adviser of Government on all matters connected with the well-being of Nyasaland native labour. During the year he attended, as the Nyasaland representative, two meetings of the Standing Committee on Migrant Native Labour, held at Salisbury in March and at Lusaka in August; while he was also present at inter-territorial labour conferences held at Dar es Salaam in April and at Cape Town in September. During August he visited both Johannesburg and Pretoria in connection with labour affairs. The Labour Commissioner works in close liaison with Provincial and District Commissioners and with employers of labour in the Protectorate. In the Northern Province he carried out tours in March and again in June; visits



were made to farms, estates, and factories, and meetings were held with Native Authorities and European planters. General conditions were found to be satisfactory.

In the Southern Province, besides periodic visits similar to those made in the north, the Labour Commissioner acted as Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the engagement of native labour for service outside the Protectorate.

The Nyasaland Labour Officer at Salisbury works directly under the Labour Commissioner, and is primarily concerned with the well-being of all Nyasaland natives working in or passing through Southern Rhodesia. He is able to assist the Rhodesian Government by advice on conditions, native custom, etc., in Nyasaland; and he is the intermediary between the Labour Officer at Blantyre and Rhodesian planters desirous of engaging Nyasaland labour. As regards local conditions, he is assisted by the reports of the six itinerant Compound Inspectors appointed by the Southern Rhodesian Government.

The identification certificates mentioned in the 1937 report have been of use in assessing, and to some extent controlling the flow of Nyasaland labour to other countries. Over 45,000 certificates were issued during the year: of these more than 37,000 were endorsed for passage to Southern Rhodesia, while rather more than 5,000 were made valid for the Union of South Africa.

Of the 113,500 Nyasaland natives believed to be employed in other territories, from 72,000 to 75,000 are working in Southern Rhodesia; 27,000 in the Union of South Africa; 4,000 in Northern Rhodesia; and 7,000 in the Tanganyika Territory. Efforts have been made to encourage natives to go to work under contract; the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association engaged 4,000 during the year, while probably another 3,000 were similarly engaged by firms and estates in Southern Rhodesia. By far the majority of emigrant labourers still prefer, however, to travel under their own arrangements.

Labour legislation passed during the year included the Hours of Employment of Women Ordinance, 1938, the Factories Ordinance, and the Employment of Natives (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938. These Ordinances are referred to in Chapter XIV below. The first is designed to regulate the employment of women during the night; the second is intended to provide for the health and safety of all persons employed in factories; while the third regulates the issue of certificates of identity.

Further legislation, dealing with the employment of women, young persons, and children; minimum wages; compensation for accidents; and the establishment of conciliation machinery for settling or avoiding disputes between employers and their work-people, was the subject of consideration during the year.



Prosecutions for offences against the labour laws numbered 142. There were 136 convictions.

A full account of all matters affecting labour is contained in the annual report of the Labour Branch for 1938.

## **IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.**

### **European.**

Although there has been for the last five years some slight improvement in economic conditions in Nyasaland, the supply of candidates for unskilled occupations still exceeds the demand. The expansion of certain Government departments has fortunately enabled a number of Europeans to obtain employment; but the number of unemployed remaining in the Protectorate makes it necessary to place some degree of restriction on the immigration of persons who wish to enter the country solely in search of work.

Average wages of Europeans vary from £6 a month, for domestic servants, to £35 and £45 for those employed in agriculture, commerce, and Government service. Average living expenses, for those resident outside townships, are approximately £25 a month for a single man and £37 for a married couple.

### **Asiatic.**

Asiatic wages range from £2 or £3 a month in the case of traders' assistants to £20 a month for those in railway and Government service. Living expenses may be taken as £2 to £3 a month.

### **African.**

Rates of pay for unskilled labour vary from 6s. to 8s. a month in the Northern Province, and from 6s. to 10s. in the Southern Province. Housing, firewood and food or food allowance are provided in addition. Drugs for the treatment of the more common complaints are stocked for free issue by employers, and free treatment is given in Government dispensaries. The more serious cases of illness are sent to the nearest hospital, usually at the expense of the employer. The average day's work for unskilled labour varies from four to eight hours; its length is dependent on whether it is task or time work, and on the energy of the worker himself.

Skilled labour is paid according to qualifications and efficiency, at rates varying from 15s. to 120s. a month.

The rates of pay of the Native Civil Service, which includes artisans as well as clerks, may be said to be similar to those paid by commercial firms, and are as follows:—

Grade III.—£17 per annum by increments not exceeding £2 per annum.

Grade II.—£30 to £45 per annum by increments not exceeding £5 per annum.

Grade I.—£50 to £200 per annum by increments varying from £4 to £12 10s.

The wages paid to domestic servants range from 6s. a month for a pantry or kitchen boy to £2 a month for a cook, plus food allowance.

The marked differences in the mode of life of different sections of the African population make it impossible to furnish any accurate general statement as to the cost of living in their case.

The majority, however, and particularly those in the more highly paid posts, live to the limit of their resources.

The staple food of the country people is a kind of porridge made from maize flour or cassava; this is supplemented by fish and other relishes according to the means and taste of the individual. Villagers can live almost entirely, and extremely cheaply, on the produce of their gardens, while those in townships can feed themselves at a cost of from 3d. to 1s. 6d. per diem according to the standard which they maintain.

## **X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.**

The European staff of the Education Department consists of a Director and a clerk at headquarters, two Superintendents of Education who are largely engaged in inspection work and are stationed at the two Provincial Headquarters, and a Principal and four assistant teachers at the Jeanes Training Centre.

With the exception of this Centre, the Government conducts no schools. All schools for Africans, and three out of the four elementary schools for Europeans, are maintained by the Missions. The role of the Department is to advise and co-ordinate.

### **European Education.**

The European population is approximately 1,800; 76 per cent. live in the districts of Blantyre, Zomba, Cholo and Mlanje in the Southern Province, and of Lilongwe in the Northern Province.

Education is not compulsory nor is it free: but it is estimated that 95 per cent. of European children of school age are being educated in schools or through the medium of correspondence courses. In necessitous cases fees, cost of tuition, and boarding are remitted in whole or part.

Cultural and climatic conditions render it unwise to keep children in Nyasaland after the age of 11 years. For this reason the policy of the Government is to provide facilities in the Protectorate for the education of children up to that age, and, when necessary, to assist parents to send their children to schools



outside the country to complete their education. There are four schools in the Protectorate for elementary education. During the year one of these, the private school at Blantyre, was closed, and its place taken by a school conducted by the Church of Scotland Mission. A loan of £2,500 was made by the Government to the Mission to meet the cost of erecting and equipping a block of classrooms and a teacher's house. The loan is to be repaid with interest over a period of years. No boarding accommodation was available at this new school in 1938 but a small hostel will be opened in 1939.

The increasing efficiency of the bursary system is evinced by the fact that, for the first time since schools were opened for European children, there was in 1938 not one child enrolled in the schools above the age of 13 years. More detailed statistics have been obtained than in previous years: they indicate that, on the basis of the standard adopted by Southern Rhodesia, there is very little retardation in the Nyasaland schools. Fifty per cent. of the pupils are in the normal age grade, 33 per cent. are advanced and 17 per cent. retarded. In no case is a child retarded more than one year. This satisfactory state of affairs is due directly to three causes: firstly, that remission of fees has been in operation for six years with the result that the age of entry to the schools is now down to six years; secondly, that owing to the small enrolment at the schools the proportion of teachers to pupils is very high, averaging one to 14; thirdly, that all the teachers, save one, have teaching certificates or diplomas and all have had considerable teaching experience.

Medical inspection has indicated that the standard of health among the school children is very satisfactory.

The tables which are appended give details of enrolment and attendance in the Protectorate schools, and of expenditure on European education:—





### **African Education.**

All primary schools are maintained by the Missions, and fall into three categories, (a) the village school, (b) the central school, and (c) the station school. The village school course is of four years duration: instruction is given entirely in the vernacular in the three R's, hygiene, history, geography, nature study and handwork. Religious instruction is of course prominent in the time-table. Schools which follow this course and have a certificated teacher are inspected and assisted by Government. In addition to these schools there are large numbers of "bush" or ungraded schools, which in some Missions are really only catechumenical centres though in others they are as efficient as the assisted village schools. The enrolment in these schools represents over 12 per cent. of the total African population and probably 66 per cent. of the children between the ages of five and 15 years. The great majority never complete the four years course, wastage and retardation being very high. But literacy in the vernacular is widely spread. For example, figures supplied by the Commissioner of Police show that during the last three years the percentage of literates among the African recruits enlisted was respectively 55 per cent., 57 per cent. and 68 per cent. Having completed the elementary vernacular course the pupil moves to a central school in which the course lasts for three years: English is introduced as a subject in the first year of this course. All these schools are assisted by Government. The final stage in the primary system is the three years course at the station school where English is the medium of instruction. It is only at such schools that European teachers are found. The tables appended indicate how small is the number who reach the end of the primary course. That number is however adequate to justify the institution of secondary schools, and concrete proposals for the inauguration of such schools have been drawn up and submitted to the Secretary of State.

In the elementary classes the enrolment of girls is almost as high as that of boys; but subsequent wastage and retardation are much higher subsequently than among the boys. One reason is the absence of women teachers, 90 per cent. of the teachers being men. During the past 10 years, increasing attention has been paid to the education of women and girls, and there are now a score of special boarding schools for girls and women, in most of which women teachers are being trained.

Several Missions have technical institutes for the training of African hospital assistants, dressers and dispensers, and of artisans in the building, printing and other trades.

The movement for compulsory education is growing in certain areas: on the whole, Native Authorities are taking a greater

interest in education and are using their influence to improve attendance in the schools. In a number of cases this interest has been aroused by attendance at a special course for Chiefs at the Government Training Centre. An annual course for six Chiefs and their wives is held from May to August. The Centre also conducts courses, lasting two years, for training school supervisors and community workers. The first community workers' courses ended in August, 1938, and the results of this experiment are being watched with great interest.



### *B. Native Education (Primary and Vocational).*

Management.	Primary Schools.			Vocational Schools.			Number of European Teachers.	Scale of Fees per annum.	Mission Expenditure.*	Government Expenditure.				
	Number of Schools.	Enrolment.		Number of Schools.	Enrolment.					Grants.	Administra- tion and Government Schools.	Total.		
		Boys.	Girls.		Boys.	Girls.								
a. Government	1	28	27	1	47	47	5	—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
b. Mission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
African Church of Christ...	1	62	30	—	—	—	—	—	60	14	6	22	15	0
African Presbyterian Church	6	305	160	—	—	—	—	—	14	14	6	12	0	0
African Methodist Epis- copal Church.	2	80	51	—	—	—	—	—	21	0	0	21	0	0
Churches of Christ Mission	45	1,102	804	1	24	—	2	6d. to 6s.	887	0	0	404	7	0
Church of Scotland Mission, Blantyre.	280	13,179	4,914	8	115	40	13	3d. to £3	8,604	0	0	1,470	0	0
Church of Scotland Mission, Livingstonia.	401	18,875	9,075	12	236	66	19	6d. to 50s.	10,786	12	3	1,943	0	0
Dutch Reformed Church Mission.	1,053	23,574	22,655	3	27	27	10	3d. to 6s.	11,020	12	3	1,529	0	0
Montfort Marist Mission ...	948	23,185	19,348	3	150	220	39	Nil	7,265	18	0	1,903	0	0
Nyasa Mission	93	2,990	1,262	1	26	—	1	—	1,467	0	0	487	2	6
Providence Industrial Mis- sion.	11	415	242	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South African General Mission.	93	2,445	1,877	—	—	—	2	1d. to 2s. 6d.	816	15	3	32	0	0
South East African Mission of 7th Day Adventists.	150	5,574	1,998	3	124	4	11	3d. to 8s.	7,329	6	9	998	13	9
Universities' Mission to Central Africa.	159	4,517	3,108	4	75	57	8	6d. to £1	4,113	19	4	972	0	0
White Fathers Mission ...	825	20,656	19,337	10	351	266	10	No regular fees.	7,662	16	0	1,109	0	0
Zambezi Industrial Mission	103	2,641	1,741	1	30	—	6	6d. to 2s.	1,085	9	9	406	16	6
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	4,171	119,628	86,629	47	1,205	727	126		61,135	18	7	11,311	15	0
											</			

\* Estimated.

### **Indian Education.**

The Asiatic community numbers some 1,600. The great majority are British Indians almost all of whom are occupied in trade. Over 50 per cent. live in the four townships of Limbe, Blantyre, Zomba and Lilongwe.

It is unfortunate that differences of creed and caste make it impossible for them to co-operate in education.

It is estimated that there are 150 Asiatic children of school age. Less than 50 are enrolled in the two schools at Limbe and Zomba. These schools are inspected and assisted by Government but are poorly supported by the parents. Some 10 coloured children whose parents object to sending them to the African schools are also enrolled in these schools.

### **General.**

During the year the Government decided to appoint two Committees under a single Chairman to survey the educational systems in force and to make recommendations for their improvement. One Committee will carry out the survey in the Southern Province and the other in the Northern Province. The surveys will be made in 1939.

The Report of the Finance Committee, published in 1938, contained the following recommendations on education:—

(a) That further expenditure on primary education for Africans is essential.

(b) That secondary education must be provided for Africans.

(c) That an additional Superintendent of Education should be appointed to permit of more effective supervision of schools.

## **XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.**

### **Shipping.**

Except for the steamers of the British India Line, which maintain a regular mail service, there are no fixed dates of sailings from Beira to England, although the intermediate vessels of the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company call frequently at Beira.

Prior to the opening of the Trans-Zambezia Railway in 1922, the main means of communication with the sea was by the Shire and Zambezi Rivers to Chinde; but since then river transport has declined and is now restricted to a small traffic, mainly in sugar and salt, between Zambezi ports and Port Herald on the Shire. Water transport is now mainly confined to Lake Nyasa, and this avenue may be expected to become of increasing importance now that the northern extension of the railway has been completed.



For many years the Government Marine Transport Department operated a monthly service of the s.s. *Guendolen* from Fort Johnston, carrying goods and passengers to various ports on the Lake. The round trip took 15 days, and calls were made at a number of small ports, the principal being Domira Bay, Kota Kota, Nkata Bay, Florence Bay, Karonga and Mwaya in Tanganyika.

In 1936 the Nyasaland Railways took over the existing Lake service from Government and inaugurated an auxiliary service, for which purpose a new motor-driven vessel, the m.v. *Mpasa*, was put into commission. This vessel was transported in sections to the Lake shore, where it was erected and successfully launched on the 20th of December, 1935. The deadweight cargo capacity is 250 tons, and sleeping accommodation for four European passengers is provided.

In 1938 the Diesel-engined tug *Nsipa* was put into service. It is hoped that funds for the provision of a new and faster steamer will shortly be available. There are also in commission on the Lake two vessels belonging to the Universities Mission to Central Africa, and one privately-owned steamer.

Efforts are being made to foster the construction, by natives, of clinker-built boats as a substitute for dug-out canoes; but little success has yet been achieved.

### Railways.

Communication with the sea is effected by the Nyasaland Railways and the Central Africa Railway running to the north bank of the Zambezi River and the Trans-Zambezia Railway which runs from the south bank to Beira. The river termini of these railways were formerly situated at Chindio and Murraca respectively and were connected between these two points by a steamer ferry. The difficulties and delays in transshipping heavy goods traffic by means of this ferry service were enormous, and in 1930 the project of providing a bridge over the Zambezi River between Sena on the south and Donna Anna on the north bank, about 26 miles upstream from Murraca, was undertaken. On the 1st March, 1935, the first passenger and mail trains crossed the Zambezi Bridge, thus establishing through communication between Nyasaland and the port of Beira and giving Nyasaland reliable and unbroken access to the seaboard. The bridge has a total length of 12,064 feet, or 2.285 miles, and approximately 17,000 tons of steelwork were used in its construction. It is the longest railway bridge in the world.

In 1934 an extension of the Nyasaland Railways from Blantyre to Salima, a distance of 160 miles, was opened for traffic.

Nyasaland now possesses a continuous transportation system extending from her most northerly boundary to the final outlet at Beira, the third most important port in the South African sub-continent.

Of the Nyasaland Railways and Central Africa Railway, 289 miles lie within the Protectorate and 24 miles in Portuguese Territory, while the entire 182 miles of the Trans-Zambezia Railway lie in Portuguese Territory. All these railways are of 2' 6" gauge and are fully equipped for the conveyance of goods and passengers. They are under one combined management locally, and share a common office and management in London.

Nyasaland Railways, Limited, was registered in October, 1930, to acquire the debenture stock and shares of the Shire Highlands Railway, Nyasaland, Limited, which had previously owned and operated the line between Blantyre and Port Herald, and also the greater part of the issued share capital of the Central Africa Railway Company, Limited, which owns the line from Port Herald to Donna Anna on the north bank of the river. The Trans-Zambezia Railway Company, Limited, was registered in 1919 to construct and work in the territory of, and under concession from, the Companhia de Mocambique, 156 miles of railway from Murraca (since extended to Sena, a further 25 miles) on the southern bank of the Zambezi River to Dondo on the Beira Junction Railway, 18 miles from Beira, the Company to have running rights over these 18 miles of Beira line, with terminal and other facilities.

### Roads.

The total mileage of main roads, exclusive of those in townships, has been re-classified as follows:—

	<i>Aggregate Length.</i> <i>Miles.</i>
<i>Class I.—Paved surface.</i>	
(a) Full width ... ..	4
(b) Tracks or strips ... ..	2
<i>Class II.—Improved surface.</i>	
(a) Water-bound macadam ...	112
(b) Gravel, laterite, etc. ...	7
<i>Class III.—Natural surface.</i>	
(a) All-weather ... ..	850
(b) Seasonal ... ..	877
	<hr/>
Total ... ..	1,852
	<hr/>

In the category "Principal District Roads" are 540 miles, of which 200 miles are normally useable throughout the year and 340 in the dry season only. Other District Roads total 1,392 miles, of which 803 miles are suitable in the dry weather for light lorries and 589 miles for passenger cars only. The total mileage of roads maintained by Government is 3,784.



The road system serves all areas of production not directly served by rail or lake steamer and gives access by motor-car (but in a few cases during the dry season only) to all administrative stations.

The traffic between Nyasaland and neighbouring countries is increasing yearly; the following are the numbers of vehicles recorded as crossing the border:—

Blantyre—Mwanza—Tete—Salisbury (Portuguese East Africa and Southern Rhodesia), 1,135 lorries and 700 cars.

Mlanje—Quelimane and Pebane (Portuguese East Africa), 387 lorries and 1,359 cars.

Lilongwe — Fort Manning — Fort Jameson — Lusaka (Northern Rhodesia), 856 lorries and 712 cars.

Mzimba—Fort Hill—Tunduma—Mbeya and Abercorn (Tanganyika and Northern Rhodesia). Passage of vehicles not recorded.

The first three of the routes mentioned are used throughout the year; while the last route, which is known as “ the Great North Road,” is now impassable to light traffic only for short periods when heavy rain occurs. This road is of increasing importance as the shortest link between Tanganyika and Southern Rhodesia and it is hoped to enhance its usefulness by the construction of a branch from Fort Hill to the Lake at Karonga.

### Air.

Air traffic increased during 1938 to an extent which could not have been anticipated from the comparatively slow progress of previous years. The number of aircraft using the three principal aerodromes of the Protectorate rose from 437 in 1937 to 737 in 1938, the number of passengers from 645 to 1,340, and the weight of mails and goods from 64,500 lb. to 104,205 lb.

This development in the more general use of aircraft may be attributed to the successful operation, without incident, of the regular air services, and to their extension during the year to include a twice weekly service between Chileka, Lilongwe, and Fort Jameson in Northern Rhodesia. It is probable that the provision of a wireless station at Chileka during 1939, and the added security to aircraft and passengers which the presence of this station will afford, will lead to a further increase in the use of these regular air services.

The additional regular service via Lilongwe to Fort Jameson, which began in June, 1938, necessitated the provision of improved aerodrome facilities at Lilongwe. The original aerodrome had the disadvantage of being three miles from the township, and could be reached only by a road which might easily become impassable during the rainy season. A new

aerodrome, a thousand yards square, was therefore constructed within the township area, and was opened for the use of aircraft during the year.

Improvements to other landing grounds were carried out by the provision of corner markings and circles, and by extensions to the area. The construction of three new landing grounds was begun, and it is hoped that these will be ready for use early in 1939.

The activities of the Aero Club of Nyasaland were somewhat curtailed during 1938 owing to the absence on leave of the pilot instructor. The annual training of the old pilots was, however, completed, and three more pilots were trained, before work was discontinued in March. The Club purchased a second aircraft for the training of its pupils, and it is anticipated that with the help of this additional machine, and the return to the country of the instructor, considerable progress will be made in 1939.

### Motor Transport.

The following table gives the statistics of Motor Transport in use in Nyasaland during the past ten years:—

<i>Type of Vehicle.</i>	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Cars and lorries	1,096	1,267	1,255	1,315	1,263	1,217	1,286	1,331	1,406	1,454
Agricultural Tractors.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14
Trailers ...	98	104	102	103	97	106	93	90	84	83
Motor bicycles and side-cars.	1,187	1,211	866	908	783	700	630	561	529	504
Totals.	2,381	1,582	2,223	2,326	2,143	1,923	2,009	1,982	2,033	2,055
Percentage increase.	4.1	11.85	—	4.63	—	—	—	—	2.57	1.08
Percentage decrease.	—	—	14.17	—	7.88	5.59	.69	1.36	—	—

Of the 2,055 motor vehicles in Nyasaland, 1,500 are owned by Europeans, 268 by Asiatics, and 287 by Africans. These figures represent a ratio of one vehicle to 1.26, 6.08 and 5,699.66 of the European, Asiatic and African populations respectively, or one to 797.72 of the total population.

The following appear to be the most popular makes of passenger cars registered in the Protectorate during 1938:— Number registered, Standard (27), Hillman (23), Morris (10), Austin (8), Ford (8), Chevrolet (7) and Vauxhall (4). The popular makes of commercial vehicles were: Chevrolet (19), Commer (18), Ford (13), International (9) and Diamond (9).



The box-body type of vehicle is favoured by Government officials who have to travel extensively, and by planters who use their cars for combined pleasure and business purposes.

Transport contractors are in favour of the fast medium diesel lorry with a pay-load of 50-60 cwt. At present there are 32 of this type of vehicle registered, as against 14 for the previous year.

Motor cycles are steadily decreasing in numbers owing to the extended use of light cars. Of the 287 vehicles owned by Africans 80 per cent. are second-hand motor cycles, mostly of an old type.

### Posts.

There are forty-five post offices in the Protectorate and one office which transacts telegraph business only. These offices are spread throughout the whole country from Karonga in the north, approximately 18 miles from the Tanganyika border, to Port Herald in the south, 16 miles from the Portuguese border, and are connected by mail services of varying frequency from once daily to once weekly.

Mails are forwarded by air, rail, motor lorry, lake vessel, bicycle and mail carrier. The mail for the most northerly offices is conveyed from the railhead at Salima to Mzimba by lorry, and beyond that point is forwarded by mail carriers. Mails for Ncheu, Mlangeni, Dedza and Mkhoma are off-loaded at Balaka station and conveyed to their destination by motor lorry. Those for other northern offices are conveyed from Blantyre to Salima by rail and thence to Dowa and Lilongwe by motor lorry. A further motor service operates to the border station of Fort Manning and continues thence to Fort Jameson in Northern Rhodesia. The mail carrier services are maintained during all weathers and the carriers are provided with shot guns for protection against wild animals.

From Karonga the carrier service is continued west to Abercorn and Fife in Northern Rhodesia, and north to Tukuyu in Tanganyika Territory. Other branch carrier services connect the lake stations to the main route.

The twice weekly experimental air mail service from Blantyre to Lilongwe and Fort Jameson, which is referred to above, was inaugurated in May, and is operated by the Rhodesian and Nyasaland Airways Limited.

Once every two weeks, letter mails for the lake stations and parcel mails for all stations north of Mzimba are forwarded by rail to Chipoka, on the northern extension of the railway, for transfer to the s.s. *Guendolen* or m.v. *Mpasa*, which, after a round trip of Lake Nyasa, return 15 days later with outgoing mails.

For the purpose of assisting delivery and postings at outlying villages, certain approved village headmen are issued with a mail bag and an imprest of postage stamps to the value of £1. A messenger supplied by the village headman carries mail to and from the nearest post office. This arrangement has proved increasingly useful and popular and is now operating in 57 villages.

Letter mails to and from countries participating in the Empire air mail scheme are despatched and received by air through Chileka air-port, 11 miles from Blantyre. These countries include Great Britain, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, South Africa, Tanganyika, Kenya, India, Malaya, Canada, Newfoundland, Australia and New Zealand. The Rhodesian and Nyasaland Airways, Limited, operate a feeder service twice weekly through Salisbury to connect with Imperial Airways' main route at Beira. The twice weekly letter mail to and from England, taking approximately a week in each direction, is a great boon to Nyasaland.

Surface mails are despatched to and received from South Africa, Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Portuguese East Africa by rail twice a week. Overseas surface mails are despatched and received once weekly and are conveyed by rail to and from Capetown, via Beira and Salisbury, and by Union Castle steamer between Capetown and Southampton. The time taken from Blantyre to Southampton is 22 days, and in the reverse direction  $21\frac{1}{4}$  days. Overseas parcel mails are railed to and from Beira and carried by steamer between that port and London. The time occupied in transit is approximately 41 days.

Surface mails circulating to and from external countries are dealt with by the travelling post office which operates between Blantyre and Sena (Portuguese East Africa) twice weekly in both directions.

### Telegraphs.

The main telegraph system was originally constructed by the African Transcontinental Telegraph Company. Cecil Rhodes, who was the driving force behind the company, conceived the idea of linking up by telegraph the distant countries under British control north of the Zambezi, with a view to the establishment of an all-British telegraph route from the Cape to Cairo. He thus hoped to secure an alternative route between South Africa and Great Britain which should be cheaper than that provided by the submarine cable from Capetown, by which the charge was at that time 11s. a word.

The line was built in 1896 from Salisbury via Tete in Portuguese territory to Blantyre. From Blantyre the construction proceeded northwards along the Lake shore to Karonga in the extreme north of the Protectorate, where it branches northwest to Fife and Abercorn and, crossing the then German East



Africa border, proceeded northwards through Bismarcksburg (now Kasanga) to Ujiji on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika. Ujiji was reached in 1902, the year in which Cecil Rhodes died, and with his death the construction ceased. The dream of linking up the south with the north by telegraph never matured.

A branch line was also constructed by the African Trans-continental Telegraph Company from Domira Bay to Fort Jameson where a telegraph office was opened in 1898.

In 1936 the continued rise of Lake Nyasa inundated the office at Domira Bay and the junction point for Fort Jameson was moved to Salima.

In 1925 the Company went into liquidation and its immovable assets, represented by over 1,000 miles of well-built telegraph line and numerous telegraph offices in Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Tanganyika, were taken over by the respective Governments at a purchase price of £12,500, the Nyasaland share being £10,750. The section running through Portuguese territory was purchased for £2,000, the Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia Governments sharing the cost on the basis of line mileage on each side of the Zambezi.

Since that date new lines have been built by Government and additional offices opened, the total number of the latter now being 27, excluding 17 public telegraph offices which are operated by Nyasaland Railways, Limited.

Fortunately the level of Lake Nyasa did not continue to rise in 1938, and no additional deviations of the northern telegraph line were necessary. The floods had, however, necessitated the deviation of a long stretch of line between Liwonde and Fort Johnston.

Overseas telegraph traffic is sent via the Cable and Wireless beam station at Salisbury. A cheap flat rate for Empire cablegrams was introduced in April 1938. The full rate is 1s. 3d. a word to and from any part of the Empire.

### **Telephones.**

There are in the Protectorate nine post office telephone exchanges, and three railway and eighteen post office public call offices, providing telephonic intercommunication between all important centres south of the Lake. The total number of telephones in use is now 348.

### **Wireless.**

There are no wireless transmitting stations operating in the Protectorate, either for commercial or broadcasting purposes.

The number of wireless receiving sets used by private persons increased by 5. Of the 281 sets at present in use 193 are of British make, 56 American, 24 Dutch and the remainder the product of various other countries.

## XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The actual recorded expenditure of the Public Works Department, compared with that of the previous year, was as follows:—

		1937.	1938.
		£	£
Public Works Department	... ..	14,173	23,281
Public Works Recurrent ...	... ..	15,315	15,640
Public Works Extraordinary	... ..	16,364*	12,887
Loan Expenditure (Roads)	... ..	9,309	5,504
Colonial Development Fund	... ..	355	309
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£65,518	£57,621

\* Includes £5,404 charged to Colonial Development Fund in previous years and transferred in 1937.

The design, construction and maintenance of all public works, with the exception of municipal undertakings in Blantyre and Limbe and of village water-supplies controlled by the Geological Survey Department, are in charge of the Public Works Department, with headquarters at Zomba where the main offices, workshops and stores are situated.

For executive purposes two divisions, the Southern and Central, are established under Executive Engineers with headquarters at Blantyre and Dedza respectively. The Northern area is in charge of an Assistant Engineer at Mzimba, and the South Nyasa area is under the direct control of headquarters.

The upkeep of district roads, which aggregate 1,392 miles in length, is undertaken by the District Administration with funds allocated by the Public Works Department. The mileage of roads maintained by the Department itself amounts to 2,392: in 1938 the cost of maintenance of the road system, totalling 3,784 miles, was £9,859, representing an average expenditure of £2 12s. od. per mile.

The transfer of responsibility for the upkeep of certain district roads to Native Authorities is gradually being extended as their capacity to bear this responsibility develops. The districts in which such transfer has been effected to a certain extent now include Zomba, Chinteché and Mzimba.

Expenditure on the maintenance and improvement of buildings amounted to £3,510, representing 1.48 per cent. of their total capital value.



Considerable progress was made in the improvement of the older quarters and offices, in conformity with modern standards; but far more remains to be done in this direction than can be financed from the ordinary maintenance vote. Besides roads and buildings the Public Works Department maintains pipe-borne water-supplies at Zomba, Lilongwe and Mlanje, and various wells at other stations. It also operates on a profitable basis the hydro-electric undertaking in Zomba which in 1938 showed an excess of revenue over expenditure of £159. The capacity of both the water and electricity supplies in Zomba has been over-taxed, particularly during the dry season, owing chiefly to developments connected with native services; and the time has come for substantial expansion to meet present and future requirements. An increase in the official scale of Government furniture caused a glut of work in the carpenters' shop; and to augment supplies, orders had to be placed with the Scottish Mission, Blantyre.

A number of capital works were executed during the year. In Blantyre, new offices were built for the Provincial Commissioner and Labour Commissioner; two houses were purchased for Government quarters and were thoroughly re-conditioned, and a Publicity office was built.

New Administration offices were completed at Mlanje early in the year. These are the first new district offices to be built for many years, and with the new court-house adjoining, show a greatly improved standard of design and construction.

In Zomba, the sanitation scheme as originally approved was completed by the erection of several public latrines. The addition of an upper storey to one of the main blocks of cells at the Central Prison was completed; this provides accommodation for about 100 prisoners. The construction of a mental hospital for Natives near the Central Asylum and of a training centre for native medical staff was begun. Additional quarters for Government employees were built in the native location.

At Lilongwe the extension and improvement of the Post Office was completed, and the European Hospital, towards the cost of which £1,000 was contributed by the local community, had been roofed by the end of the year.

Many capital improvements were effected on the main road system, notably the completion, under difficult conditions, of the new Murchison bridge across the Shire River on the road from Blantyre to the North. The replacement of temporary bridges and culverts on the Great North Road, connecting at Tunduma with the road system of Tanganyika and Northern Rhodesia, proceeded; and this road is now passable throughout the year except for short periods following heavy rainfall.

The metalling of roads in the tea growing area of Cholo was continued; and in the neighbouring district of Mlanje various improvements were made with the object of assisting this important industry.

### **XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.**

#### **Justice.**

The Courts of the Protectorate consist of the High Court, with jurisdiction over all persons and over all matters in the Protectorate, and courts subordinate thereto. There are also native courts, which are supervised by the Provincial Commissioners.

Subordinate courts are nominally of the first, second and third class with differentiated powers of trial of natives and non-natives, the trial of non-natives in certain matters being reserved to courts of the first and second classes.

There is at present no court of the first class, for Provincial Commissioners do not hold warrants as Magistrates, and the court of the first class in Blantyre, which used to be presided over by a Town Magistrate, no longer sits. The second and third class courts are presided over by the District and Assistant District Commissioners of each district.

The Criminal Procedure Code confers on first and second class courts a limited jurisdiction over Europeans and Non-Natives, the sentences which may be imposed upon these two classes by a court of the second class being limited to six months. The graver crimes are tried by the High Court after a preliminary inquiry before a court of the second or third class.

Subordinate courts of the first and second class may try natives for any offence under the Penal Code or any other law, other than treason, misprision of treason, murder, and manslaughter; but any sentence of more than six months' imprisonment is subject to confirmation by the High Court. Subordinate courts have the power to commit serious cases for trial to the High Court.

In recent years the majority of charges of murder and manslaughter have been tried by the High Court after a preliminary magisterial inquiry. The previous procedure which, under Section 202 of the Criminal Procedure Code, enabled subordinate courts to try such charges subject to confirmation of the finding by the High Court, has now been abolished. All charges of murder and manslaughter are now committed for trial before the High Court.

In civil matters, courts of the first, second and third class have jurisdiction over Europeans and Asiatics in all matters in which the amount or value in dispute does not exceed £100, £50 or £25



respectively. " Courts of the first and second class may subject to the provisions of article 20 of the British Central Africa Order in Council, 1902, try any native civil case and courts of the third class may subject as above and subject to the provisions of Section 13 (of the Courts Ordinance—Cap. 3 R.L.N.) try any such case ". Section 13 reserves certain cases " of such importance as not to fall under the head of mere district discipline " to courts of the first or second class or the High Court, unless the Governor shall otherwise direct.

Native courts were established in 1933 to exercise over natives such jurisdiction as the Governor may by warrant under his hand authorize a Provincial Commissioner by his warrant to confer upon the court. Certain territorial limits are set by the Ordinance and certain subjects are reserved to other courts. For offences against native law and custom they may impose a fine or may order imprisonment or corporal punishment " or may inflict any punishment authorized by native law or custom, provided that such punishment is not repugnant to natural justice and humanity, and that the fine or other punishment shall in no case be excessive but shall always be proportioned to the nature and circumstances of the case ".

The High Court may call for the records of all Courts subordinate to itself, to satisfy itself as to the legality and propriety of the proceedings and sentence.

Records of the Native Courts are similarly dealt with by District Commissioners.

Appeals from subordinate courts in civil and criminal matters lie to the High Court.

Appeals from Native Courts lie to the District Commissioners, Provincial Commissioners and ultimately to the Judge of the High Court.

Appeals from the High Court in civil and criminal matters lie to the Court of Appeal for Eastern Africa.

The Judge arranges Circuits at convenient times, and so far as is possible fixes the venue in or near the District in which the alleged crime has been committed. He also inspects the court books and files of subordinate courts. He is *ex officio* Visiting Justice of the central and district prisons of the Protectorate.

### Police.

The Nyasaland Police Force was reorganized in 1920, and the present establishment consists of nine Officers, two Inspectors, three Assistant Inspectors, three Asian Sub-Inspectors and 499 African ranks.

Although it is essentially a civil Force, all the rank and file are armed with S.M.L.E. rifles and in case of war the Force is liable to be called upon to serve with regular troops.

The Headquarters in Zomba comprise of a Training Depot, a Criminal Investigation Department, a Finger Print Bureau, an Immigration Department, a Passport Office and a Central Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Owing to the limited staff, European police officers are in charge of units in only the more settled areas. During the year, an officer was posted for the first time to the Northern Province, and was stationed at Lilongwe. In other areas the District Commissioners are in command of the Police units in their respective districts.

In areas where police officers are in charge, statistics of crime are recorded in detail. During 1938 the number of cases dealt with by the police in such areas was 3,421 as against 2,961 in the previous year, an increase of 460. Offences against the person numbered 295 or 8·62 per cent. of the total number of cases reported, while offences against property were 1,197 or 34·98 per cent.

Property reported stolen was valued at £1,900 os. 5d.; of this, property to the value of £555 12s. 1½d. or 19·1 per cent., was recovered.

The number of true cases of murder was 16 as against ten during the previous year.

### **Prisons.**

The established prisons comprise a Central Prison at Zomba, 19 district prisons situated at the headquarters of the administrative districts, a district prison at Limbe and temporary prisons at Chileka Aerodrome in the Blantyre district, at Mkulas in the Upper Shire district and at Mlanje and Cholo. All prisons are under the general control of the Chief Inspector of Prisons who is also Commissioner of Police.

The Central Prison is for the reception of Europeans, Asiatics, long-sentence Africans, coloured persons and recidivists.

Accommodation at the Central Prison for non-Europeans consists of two blocks. One block contains 28 association wards, 12 to accommodate six prisoners each and the remaining 16 eight each. The second block contains 66 single cells, four association cells with a capacity for eight prisoners each and six association wards each of which will accommodate six persons.

Asiatics and coloured persons are accommodated in the single cells.

Within the main walls of the Central Prison are the hospital and some of the workshops. The hospital contains two large wards and a smaller one for serious cases.



A large building contains the shops, in which are employed tailors, leather workers, weavers, mat-makers and tinsmiths. The carpenters' shop is outside the main walls, as are also wards for lepers, for those suffering from venereal and other dangerous diseases, and for the observation of new arrivals.

The female prison is entirely separate and contains one ward and four single cells. This section has a large exercise yard and is surrounded by a wall. Female prisoners are usually employed on garden work.

The European section is also separate and contains five rooms, a store and a bathroom, all surrounded by a large exercise yard.

Recidivists are kept apart from first offenders while young prisoners are separated from the older ones. The younger prisoners are housed in association in "A" block and work apart from the others. Prisoners who have to serve a sentence long enough to make it possible to teach them a trade are put into the workshops. Numbers of prisoners who have been of exemplary character and have proved trustworthy have, on release, been given letters of recommendation by the Superintendent. Many of them have thus been able easily to obtain work as artisans, bricklayers, etc.

During 1938 the value of labour given to various Government Departments amounted to £1,718 5s. 9d.

The numbers of admissions during 1938 compared with those for 1937 were:—

	1937.	1938.
European males ... ..	2	—
Asiatic males ... ..	1	2
Coloured males ... ..	2	3
African males ... ..	255	231
African females ... ..	2	3
	<hr/> 262 <hr/>	<hr/> 239 <hr/>

The average daily number of prisoners in the Central Prison during 1938 was 309·36 compared with 329·50 during 1937.

The general health of the prisoners was excellent. The number of admissions to hospital during 1938 was 169 compared with 221 in 1937. The daily average on the sick list was 15·06. The majority of those who were admitted to hospital were new arrivals suffering from venereal and intestinal diseases. Only two deaths occurred during the year, one from pellagra and the other from acute dilation of the stomach. The death rate per thousand of the total prison population was 3·46. Two executions were carried out.

Frequent services were held for the benefit of those prisoners professing Christianity.

District prisons of the older type mostly consist of association wards, but all new prisons are being built on modern lines and to a standard plan. District prisons are under the supervision of Administrative or Police Officers; and the African staff consists of either African warders or police constables.

#### **XIV.—LEGISLATION.**

The following is a résumé of the more important legislation enacted during the year 1938:—

No. 2. The Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938.

No. 3. The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938.

These two Ordinances are designed to enable the Governor to demonetise old issues of postage and revenue stamps respectively.

No. 5. The King's African Rifles (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, limits the power of awarding corporal punishment to courts-martial.

No. 14. The Marketing of Native Produce Ordinance, 1938, is designed to control and assist the marketing of native produce, and will be brought into force at some future date when circumstances warrant its introduction.

No. 15. The Licensing (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, is designed to ensure as far as possible uniformity of policy in the granting of licences, and to prevent overtrading.

No. 18. The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, provides for the trial of murder and manslaughter cases by the High Court.

No. 20. The Factories Ordinance, 1938, is a measure for the protection of employees in factories.

No. 21. The Police (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 22. The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938.

No. 23. The Asylums (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938. The primary object of these three Ordinances is to provide for the payment, to dependents of members who die in the service, of such gratuity as the member had already earned by reason of service, or would have received if he had retired on account of ill health.

No. 24. The Dogs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, provides for the more effective control of native owned dogs, as a measure to guard against the spread of rabies in the Protectorate.

No. 26. The Motor Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, provides for the compulsory insurance of motorists against third party risks. It will be observed that by the new section 161 provided that before the Ordinance is brought into operation, the Governor must be satisfied that it will cause no hardship to motorists.



No. 27. The Employment of Natives (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, provides for the issue of certificates of identity to all natives who desire to leave the Protectorate.

## **XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.**

### *Banking.*

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, maintains branches at Blantyre, Limbe, Lilongwe and Zomba, while Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has branches at Blantyre and Limbe.

The Post Office Savings Bank conducts business at the 23 more important offices. There was a further increase in the number of native depositors from 2,246 to 2,631. The total number of open accounts rose from 1,738 in 1937 to 3,185 in 1938, while the total amount on deposit advanced from £51,680 to £57,589.

### **Currency.**

English gold, silver and copper coins are legal tender in the Protectorate. The gold standard was abandoned with effect from the 12th October, 1931, and the English sovereign is now at a premium of 13s. 6d. Bank notes issued by the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) in the territory of Southern Rhodesia are legal tender in Nyasaland. Silver coins of the denominations half-crown, florin, shilling, sixpence and threepence and cupro-nickel coins issued by the Government of Southern Rhodesia are current in the Protectorate and are legal tender for any amount not exceeding £2.

### **Weights and Measures.**

Imperial weights and measures are in standard use throughout the Protectorate.

## **XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.**

### **Revenue and Expenditure.**

The revenue and expenditure for the past three years was as follows:—

						<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
						£	£
1936	...	...	...	...	...	798,426	754,217
1937	...	...	...	...	...	1,029,933	1,002,548
1938	...	...	...	...	...	842,626	810,261

Loans in aid of the Trans-Zambezia Railway Annuities, and grants from the Colonial Development Fund are included under revenue, while under expenditure are also included disbursements in respect of the same services.

### Public Debt.

The public debt of the Protectorate on 31st December, 1938, amounted to £5,373,820 made up as follows:—

Redemption of Railway Subsidy Lands ...	...	...	£ 110,407
East Africa Protectorates Loan, 1915-1920 ...	...	...	34,876
Trans-Zambezia Railway Guarantee and Annuities ...	...	...	1,658,537
Nyasaland 4½ per cent. Guaranteed Loan ...	...	...	2,000,000
Nyasaland 3 per cent. Guaranteed Loan ...	...	...	1,570,000
Total ...	...	...	<u>£5,373,820</u>

### Taxation.

The main heads of taxation, together with their yields, were:—

Customs and Road and River Dues ...	...	£ 190,617
Hut Taxes ...	...	145,027
Income Tax ...	...	42,918
Non-Native Poll Tax ...	...	4,212
Licences ...	...	31,784

### HUT TAX.

A hut tax of 6s., if paid before the end of September in each year, and 9s. if paid thereafter, is payable by every adult native owning or occupying a hut. The tax is payable in respect of each hut owned. Exemption is granted in respect of widows and any other person who on account of age, disease or other physical disability is unable to find the means wherewith to pay the tax. District Commissioners may also, subject to the general or special directions of the Governor, exempt from the payment of the whole or any part of the tax any person who produces satisfactory evidence that owing to economic conditions he is unable to pay.

Every adult male native who is not liable to pay hut tax must pay a poll tax equivalent to the tax on one hut.

Employers of natives who have entered the Protectorate from other territories are required to pay tax on behalf of such natives at the rate of one-twelfth of the total tax a month, and may recover the sums thus paid from their employees.

Native visitors who do not obtain employment are exempt from poll tax.



### INCOME TAX.

Every non-native adult male is required to pay income tax as imposed by the Income Tax Ordinance, 1925, as amended, subject to certain abatements and allowances.

No tax is payable on incomes of £300 and under and, in the case of a married man, on £600 and under. There are also allowances for children and insurance. Companies are taxed at the rate of 2s. 6d. in the pound, subject to relief in respect of double Empire tax.

A poll tax of £2 is imposed on every adult non-native male by the Non-Native Poll Tax Ordinance of 1928.

### LICENCES.

These are imposed under various ordinance and consist of the following, the collection during 1938 being shown against each:—

					£
Arms and Ammunition	...	...	...	...	907
Bankers	...	...	...	...	65
Bicycles	...	...	...	...	2,894
Bonded warehouse	...	...	...	...	60
Game	...	...	...	...	457
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	38
Liquor	...	...	...	...	746
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	159
Tobacco	...	...	...	...	17
Trading	...	...	...	...	14,026
Dog	...	...	...	...	162
Trout	...	...	...	...	42
Motor Vehicles	...	...	...	...	7,551

## XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

### Lands and Survey.

The Nyasaland Protectorate (Native Trust Land) Order in Council, 1936, divides the land of the Protectorate into three classes—Crown Lands, Reserved Lands and Native Trust Land.

Crown Lands are defined as being all lands and interests in land acquired or occupied by or on behalf of His Majesty. Reserved Lands include land in townships, reserves at Government Stations, forest reserves and all land alienated prior to the enactment of the Order in Council. All the land in the Protectorate other than Crown and Reserved Land is Native Trust Land.

In the Native Trust Land the Governor may grant rights of occupancy for any term not exceeding ninety-nine years.

During the year 1938 eleven leases of Reserved Lands totalling 5,187½ acres and sixteen rights of occupancy of Native Trust Land totalling 2,365 acres were granted.

Six leases of Reserved Lands were converted from short term leases under the old Crown Lands Ordinance into long term leases under the present Ordinance. The areas affected amounted to 4,767 acres.

Sixteen leases totalling 9,000 acres were determined by formal surrender, by expiry, or in connection with the conversions referred to above; but of these, six leases totalling 4,255 acres were re-leased on conversion to the former lessees.

Seventy yearly tenancies, the majority for trading plots, were issued; and forty-six were cancelled.

Thirty surveys, covering 7,880 acres, were completed during the year.

### **Mining.**

Exclusive Prospecting Licences were granted to the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa, Limited, in respect of the deposits of bauxite on Mlanje Mountain and to the Trans-African Base Metals Corporation, Limited, in respect of deposits of kyanite near Dzonze Hill in the Ncheu District. Samples of both of these minerals have been exported by the prospecting Companies for assay and report as to commercial value.

The interest in prospecting for gold has not revived and no native gold was exported during the year.

No discoveries of precious metals or other minerals of any importance have been reported.

### **Immigration.**

The Commissioner of Police is the Principal Immigration Officer. He is assisted by all other Officers and Inspectors of Police, as well as by certain District Commissioners and Customs Officers.

The ports of entry are Port Herald, Chileka, Fort Manning, Fort Johnston, Karonga, Mzimba, Dedza, Ncheu, Chikwawa and Mlanje.

All persons arriving in the Protectorate must report to an immigration officer and satisfy him that they are not prohibited immigrants. They should be in possession of passports or other documentary evidence of identity and nationality.

Entry is restricted in the case of persons convicted of serious crime; those suffering from infectious, contagious or mental disease; those likely to be dangerous to peace and good order; or those likely to become a burden upon public funds.

Persons in the following categories are allowed, if their identity is established, to proceed without further formalities:—members of His Majesty's regular naval or military forces; persons accredited to the Protectorate by or under the authority of the



Imperial or of any foreign government; persons domiciled in the Protectorate and not otherwise prohibited from entry; and the wives and children of such persons.

Other non-native immigrants must be prepared to make a deposit of £100 or to produce some other acceptable security. This policy is strictly followed when dealing with persons who appear to be in an impecunious condition and who may be liable to become a public charge. Visitors who arrive for a temporary stay are not put to any inconvenience.

The number of non-Native persons, including returning residents and persons in transit, who entered the Protectorate during each of the past five years is set out as follows:—

		1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Europeans	...	3,478	3,980	3,759	4,643	5,190
Asiatics...	...	1,342	1,084	1,013	1,228	1,395

During 1938 the methods of transport adopted by immigrants (including transmigrants) arriving in the Protectorate were:—

		<i>Air.</i>	<i>Rail.</i>	<i>Road.</i>	<i>Water.</i>
Europeans	...	565	1,072	3,540	13
Asiatics	...	—	593	792	10

### **The Native Welfare Committee.**

The Native Welfare Committee, which now operates under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, continued to advise Government on all matters connected with the well-being of natives in the Protectorate. Among the subjects which came under its consideration, and on which recommendations were submitted to Government were the control of soil erosion, trypanosomiasis, rodents, and rabies; the auction floor system of buying native tobacco; the control of grass fires; the marketing of native produce; the establishment and control of rural dispensaries; rice production; cattle utilization; and co-operative marketing of ghee; boat-building for natives; small-holding schemes; and native charities. The Committee maintained close touch with the personnel of the Nutrition and Fisheries Surveys, and was instrumental in advising on the methods to be adopted in carrying out the Educational Survey.

A memorandum setting out the native policy of the Government was compiled by the Committee and was published during the year.

### **Co-operative Societies.**

Thanks to the generosity of the Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation it was possible to detail an officer to make a study of the co-operative movement in other countries. This officer

returned to the Protectorate in March; and since then it has been possible to start a few local co-operative societies. The movement is as yet, of course, in its infancy; but future prospects are reasonably hopeful.

## APPENDIX.

## GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Title of Publication.	Circulation.	Published Price and Subscription Rate.	Cost of Postage to United Kingdom.	Where obtainable and address of London Agent if any.
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS. Nyasaland Annual Report		2s.	2d.	His Majesty's Stationer's Office, York House, Kingsway, London W.C.2.
GAZETTE. Nyasaland Government Gazette ... ..	500 Monthly.	6d. 7s. 6d. per annum. 12s. 6d.	1s. 6d. per annum	Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London S.W.1, and Government Printer, Zomba.
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The Census Reports of the Nyasaland Protectorate, 1911, 1921, 1926 and 1931		5s. each	2d.	Government Printer Zomba.
Handbook on Cotton and Tobacco Cultivation in Nyasaland (McCall), 1920		5s.	3d.	do.
Native Education Conference Report, 1927 ...		3s. 6d.	2d.	do.
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Native Agricultural Committee Report, 1930 ...		6d.	2d.	do.
Report on Tea Cultivation and its Development in Nyasaland (Mann), 1933		2s. 6d.	2d.	do.
Land Bank Report, 1936		1s.	1d.	do.
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